Correspondence 1876-1877:
Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle

by

Sarah Orne Jewett and others

Edited by Terry Heller

Coe College

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Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Internet Access to this text

The Internet Archive

and

Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:

https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html

Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Theodore Herman Jewett (1815-1878), Jewett's father.

Caroline Frances Perry (1820-1891), Jewett's mother.

Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister.

Caroline (Carrie) Augusta Jewett (1855-1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell: (1826-1904), Jewett's aunt.

Katherine de Costa Birckhead: (1843? - 1925?), close friend and spiritual mentor to Jewett, mainly in the late 1870s.

Mellen Chamberlain: (1821-1900), a Boston municipal judge and an amateur historian.

Anna Lauren Dawes: (1851-1938) author and activist, daughter of Massachusetts politician, Henry L. Dawes.

Helen Williams Gilman: (1817-1904), Jewett's great aunt.

Georgina Halliburton: (1849-1910), a lifelong friend.

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly*, a mentor to Jewett.

Ella Maria Walworth Little: (b. 1849) One of Jewett's closest friends in her early years Married in 1875.

Ellen Frances Mason: (1846-1930), a lifelong friend.

James Ripley Osgood: (1836-1892), publisher at what eventually became Houghton, Mifflin, Jewett's main publisher.

Theophilus Parsons: (1797-1882), Harvard law professor and judge, who became one of Jewett's early mentors.

Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry: (1826-1896), Jewett's maternal aunt.

Cora Lee Clark Rice: (1849-1925), lifelong friend. Married in December 1872

Horace Elisha Scudder (1838-1902), Editor of publications eventually associated with Houghton, Mifflin, publishers. Early literary advisor.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden: (1842-1918), a lifelong friend. Married in 1885.

1876

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

7 Jan. 1876

Dear Anna —

I was delighted to get your letter and I meant to answer it before now — for I do enjoy a talk with you particularly but I — "haven't had any time"! I think there are at least fifteen letters patiently waiting on the back of my desk — and I should like to go into bankruptcy — if the answers were not all to be sent to the nicest people in the world. I like to write letters and I like to get them and it is only when I owe more than fifteen that my heart grows faint within me, for I have all my other writing to do — and not half

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time enough for that! I don't know what becomes of one's time, but I have been struggling with a little sewing which was put off until 'after Christmas — {'}

Oh, I think you must have received a circular of the Study Club by this time as I directed an envelope to you and asked Ellen* to put one into it & send it along — She might not have thought to send it to me for ever so long and I concluded this was the safest way! She's [usually *corrected*] in a hurry when she writes to me — dear [Soul *corrected*] ! — I am hard at work on a third 'Deephaven paper'* — This is much like the 'cronies' and is to be called D. Excursions if ever it is finished — and gets safely to Mr. Howells.* I was outdone

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this afternoon — for I had just begun writing and everything was spread out and I had all sails set for a solemn afternoon's work when some one called ^to^ me to say that a [friend *corrected*] was coming a little later for me to go out and make parish calls! Wasn't it hard? But I knew I had to go some time and might as well make the best of it, then and there. I had a pretty good time — one sister informed us as we left that she'd about given up hope of seeing anybody — she'd been here five years and had only had one or two calls! Doesn't that show an unsocial spirit? You needn't hold me accountable,

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[I belongs *so written*] to St. John's* Episcopal Church in Portsmouth! These were ^mostly^ a lot of new people who have lately come into town. They get dreadfully mad if you don't call at once; then they never return the calls and still condemn you as stuck-up. I dare say you have had similar acquaintances in Pittsfield and can sympathize. Do tell Mrs. Burleigh* when you see her that I spent an afternoon in making parish calls and that Shoetown* and the landing have been properly attended to — and the committees have faithfully done their work this year. She'll laugh I know — Yes, I do like Mrs. Burleigh ever so much

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and I miss her — I didn't see her to say good bye — She's very kind, and I don't know anybody who is more useful here in the village — I don't see her very much for I am not great on calls — and then we're both away a great deal.

I wish you were here — I can think of ever so many things I should like to chatter about, but there's no use in trying to put them into one letter, and if I did, I couldn't know what you would say, which would be the best part — a letter is only half, at any

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rate — I suppose you grow busier and busier — I should think there would be a great many pleasant things about such a winter in Washington as you will have — and no end of advantages, but, as you said in your letter one's own particular pursuits have to be crowded out very often — I am afraid I shouldn't like it, for I am not used to a grand whirl of society, except for at most a few weeks at a time when I am away visiting and I should be cross of having to give up my fashion of

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[living *corrected*] — I always think I am going to have a magnificent time being 'gay' — when I am in Philadelphia or other places, but I get tired to death of parties before the first week, and I settle down into an unambitious round of lunches and dinner parties and very small 'Evenings'— I like my friends one or two at a time so much better than in [*deletion or blot*] a crowd — and as for the strangers — why I do like to know new people but one never has much satisfaction with them even at a party — Oh well! I'm a most unmistakeable country girl — that explains it at once, doesn't it my

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dear? —— I wonder what I have been doing since I wrote you that will bear telling about — Skating for one thing; just as nice as ever, too —

and reading a little, and the writing which I have told you of, already — I must say good bye — this letter has already been delayed [two *corrected*] days — and I [wish *corrected from* with *?*] to be sure of its going by the next post — Thank you for your letter — we are new friends to be sure but I am certain that we are very good friends and I wish I could see more of you, most heartily — With best wishes for your new year (minus a week!).

Your sincerely & affly

S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Mary sends love to you — She has been ill for

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

several days, which [seems *corrected*] strange for she so rarely 'gives in'

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

to such things, though she's not at all strong.

Notes

Study Club ... Ellen: For Ellen Mason, Key to Correspondents. Jewett refers to the Society to Encourage Studies at Home founded by Anna Eliot Ticknor (1823-1896) in 1873. The organization offered correspondence college courses for women. Wikipedia.

Deephaven paper: "Deephaven Excursions," along with the sketches "The Shore House" and "Deephaven Cronies," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* 1873-1876, before she revised them into her first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

Howells: William Dean Howells, editor at *Atlantic*. Key to Correspondents.

St. John's: Hollis notes that Sarah and Mary Jewett became members of St. John's Church on November 27, 1870. They also continued active in South Berwick's Congregational Church.

Shoetown: This is the area around the Cummings Shoe Factory, built in 1871 in South Berwick. Though the factory closed in 1993, the area still contains a number of lower-cost homes built in the years after the factory opened. Wikipedia.

Mrs. Burleigh: Matilda Buffum Burleigh (1823-1911), wife of John H. Burleigh (1822-1878), the Maine congressman from South Berwick, who was serving in the United States House of Representatives in 1876. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Georgina Halliburton to Sarah Orne Jewett

Brooklyn Jan. 11 [*1876*]*

My dear Sarah

I enjoyed did I tell you? the "Dull Christmas"* so much{—} it is a beautiful story — & [*two unrecognized words*] reminded of Miss [*unrecognized name*] all through it. did you think of her when you wrote it?

I did not go to N.Y. on the second Sunday as I had planned to do — & I am very glad — because Mr [*unrecognized name*] — didnt preach {.} I

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heard through Grace that he preaches in Boston. I shall try to go over next Sunday. [A *?*] Mr. Knight passed yesterday with me and he went over to hear Dr. John Hall.* I always find him interesting and his new church [is *?*] superb in such [*several unrecognized words*]. My screen is one of the big folding ones. & I am very happy to have suggestions. Pray how do you [*two unrecognized words*] [starch paste *?*] *?* I should think it would be [*two unrecognized words*] than flour. I have not yet begun. [*two unrecognized words*] the screen

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has not been sent yet from the [*two unrecognized words*] but I have a number of pictures ready.

Have just read the "Chance Acquaintance"* [*several unrecognized words*] much, but <u>did</u> they [make it up & marry *?*]. I wish you would ask Mr. Howells. — it quite worries me. I suppose <u>you</u> heard some [*only two recognizable words in the last 3 lines of this paragraph*: of this.]

I passed a day & night at Mrs [*unrecognized name*] in New York where Ella* is visiting. I had a very pleasant time. I

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love to watch Ella {—} she is so pretty & life is so fresh & new to her{.} I hope her life proves a bright & blessed one. I think Deephaven [excursions *?*]* will be delightful. How I wish we could [*three unrecognized words*] to Newcastle in [*unrecognized word*] which we have [never had *?*] [*unrecognized line of perhaps 7 words*]

delightful. A big good idea putting in [*two unrecognized words*] the story of the people in the cliff [*perhaps 4 unrecognized words*] touching and lonesome.*

I have met Mr. [*unrecognized name*] {—} he speaks of knowing you {—}

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somehow he does not seem to know the right [*three unrecognized words*]. All this of course is imaginary.

I [love *?*] your idea so much with your Sunday scholars. I wish you would include me in your class{.} I read [*unrecognized word*] your little expositions{.} I shall value them highly [*unrecognized word*] {.} Sometime I will [*unrecognized word*] the same when I find a [*unrecognized word*] that impresses me & helps me especially.

Where is the [*perhaps two unrecognized words*]

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[to say that *?*].

I have heard a fine sermon from Mr. Beecher* since I [*unrecognized word*] { — } how <u>wonderful</u> he is.

I long to hear from you & do enjoy your letters so much.

I wish I could have another good hour with you. Somehow when your day comes I have so many interruptions.

Good bye dear Sarah

Your loving

Georgie.

Notes

1876: This date is based upon the recent publication of Jewett's story, "Patty's Dull Christmas." See note below.

As should be clear in the transcription, this letter is largely unreadable, but there is enough readable content to make it worth transcribing.

Dull Christmas: "Patty's Dull Christmas" first appeared in The Independent (27:25-27) on December 23, 1875.

Dr. John Hall: " Reverend John Hall, D.D., L.L.D. (1829-1898) was Pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, from 1867 until his death." His new church was completed in 1875.

Mr. Knight has not yet been identified.

Chance Acquaintance: William Dean Howells' *A Chance Acquaintance* (1873). Key to Correspondents.

Ella: Probably Ella Maria Walworth (Mrs. George Britton) Little. Key to Correspondents.

Deephaven: Halliburton probably has written "Deephaven excursions." Jewett's story appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1876. Probably Halliburton has read the story before it was published.

cliff ... lonesome: This seems to be a reference to the first excursion in "Deephaven Excursions."

Mr. Beecher: Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) was an American Congregationalist clergyman, abolitionist, and social reformer.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

25 Jan. 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons.

I meant to thank you for your kind note the very next morning after it came but I have put it off from one day to another, though I can't tell how many times I have thought of it — It is such a delight to me to have given you pleasure, and it was so kind of you to have sent that little letter —-

I think "Patty"* <u>was</u> a nice girl, and I wish I could be as thoughtful

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always myself, but it is so much easier to put good people into a story than it is to be good oneself! I am always conscious of some edifying remarks father made once, when I had written a story about a little girl who was orderly and who always finished whatever she began — He mentioned the fact that guide-posts never travel over the roads which they point out &c — and it was <u>such</u> an appropriate fact to mention at that time!

I wish I had something to tell you — I have finished the Deephaven Excursions*

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after a good deal of hard work for I foolishly hurried toward the end of my copying — I have sent it to Mr. Howells and am waiting his decision. I shall be sorry of course if he doesn't like it as well as he did the other, but still, I have

had a great deal of pleasure in writing it, and I don't expect to have all my stories prove successful — I only wonder I have had so many printed. I send you a copy of some verses of mine which were in this month's "St. Nicholas"{.}* Father took a fancy to them and we have had fun over

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the idea of there being so much moral for so little buttercup! I haven't been out much lately, and couldn't improve the last of the good skating for I have had the rheumatism, and I don't like to be out much in the cold — because if I get a great pain in my shoulder it hurts me to write and to breathe and I get everlastingly cross! But ^for^ a person of my age — old and rheumatic — I [have *corrected*] been in a remarkably good state of health this winter and have enjoyed life astonishingly —

The last two or three days I have been reading with all

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2

my might. I have had little time for it during the last two months — I have read three jolly novels and two books of poetry and the Duke of Argyll's essays on Primeval Man and a pile of old Atlantics and a bit of some other things* — lately, and I have felt lazy and had a very good time indeed. The rheumatism has been a good excuse for not doing anything — and then I had a sense of conscious rectitude after my story went off —

Father is very well, and would be delighted to send you some message if he were here, I'm sure but he is down at Saco

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today —

I hope Mrs. Parsons is better — please give her my love. I wish I could go to see you today instead of sending this letter. I am beginning to wish awfully that I were in Boston — though I never have been so contented in Berwick in winter-time before.

— Oh, I was reading a book called "Una and her Paupers" the other day and I found something at the end of it about Miss Emily and what she did in the hospitals.* I always wish I knew more about her work there. I think I couldn't have helped going if I had been older — but I never could have done such splendid, useful work as Miss Emily did

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

though I would have done the best I could 'under orders'. Goodby with ever so much love

Sarah.

Notes

Patty: "Patty's Dull Christmas," first appeared in *The Independent* (27:25-27) on 23 December 1875 and was collected in *Play Days* in 1878.

Deephaven Excursions: "Deephaven Excursions" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (38:277-290), September 1876.

"St. Nicholas": Jewett's "Discontent" first appeared in *St. Nicholas* (3:247) February 1876. The February issue would have appeared in January.

However, in the folder with this manuscript letter is a manuscript of Jewett's poem, "Together," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in May 1875.

Primeval Man: George Douglas Campbell, Duke of Argyll's *Primeval Man: An Examination of Some Recent Speculations* appeared in 1869 (London). The essay collection critiqued Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory. (Research: Julia Hollins).

"Una and her Paupers" ... Miss Emily: Parsons's daughter, Emily Elizabeth (1824-1880), was a nurse during the Civil War and founded the Cambridge Hospital. After her death, her father gathered a collection of her letters about her work to benefit the Cambridge hospital: *Memoir of Emily Elizabeth Parsons* (1880). *"Una and her Paupers:" Memorials of Agnes Elizabeth Jones* by J. Jones, Florence Nightingale, and L. P. Brockett was published in 1872.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Charles C. Hoyt* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston, Feb'y 22 / 76

Dear Miss Jewett:

Possibly you did not imagine that I should have the temerity to send you a word of the 'lecter,'* or my thanks without recourse to Ella.* But I shall not be satisfied with a fragment of Mrs. G. B. L's letter and am so unreasonable as to desire a whole sheet and envelope all to myself.

Can you pardon such selfishness, even though it

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be at the cost of wearying your patience?

Indeed, I am only too happy of an opportunity to send you my best thanks, not only for your valuable suggestions but for the — to me — delightful talk of Mr. Whittier.*

Without your kind interest, there were, I am sure many peculiarly pleasant features about Mr. Whittier's verse, which would have altogether escaped my untrained eyes. Chief of all, however, and outside of my attempt to write of him, I am indebted to you, for somehow stimulating in me,

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a sympathy with the true and gentle manhood, that shines out in all of the poems of our New England poet.

Amy Wentworth* has been running in my head ever since we looked it over, and it seems to grow in beauty as it increases in familiarity. You know how aptly, Oliver Wendell Holmes, compares a poem to an old violin,* how they both must be kept and used until they are stained through and through with a secondary tint, which they derive from our own imaginations and aspirations & how like minds

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strike at their weaknesses and sins.

I look over what was written in ^my^ criticism, and it seems sadly mixed up, and very fruitful of errors, which I lacked the time and knowledge to correct.

Still I have a curiosity to know if there are any redeeming features about it and am sorely tempted to submit it to your good judgment for a verdict.

Mais, — as there were several ideas, that struggled hard to get in and others that jostled about for <u>more</u> elbow room

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which was denied, for fear of boring the audience, for the same reason it will undoubtedly be the wisest course to leave the whole thing out here. I will conclude with a sincere hope that you may not be wearied by a letter, so unnecessarily full of that unworthy subject.

Yours very truly,

Charles Hoyt

Notes

Charles C. Hoyt: Nothing is yet known with certainty about this correspondent. Possibly he is the Boston businessman, Charles Chase Hoyt (1855-). In 1897, he became vice-president of Walworth Manufacturing, the company founded by Ella Walworth Britton's father. Key to Correspondents.

lecter,': Humorous spelling of "lecture?"

Ella: Ella Maria Walworth (Mrs. George Britton) Little. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Amy Wentworth: Whittier's "Amy Wentworth" appeared in *Ballads of New England* (1870).

Oliver Wendell Holmes: Key to Correspondents. Holmes makes the comparison between a poem and a violin in *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* (1858), pp. 103 ff.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

Sunday morning

[*March - May 1876*]*

Dear Prof. Parsons —

I have been thinking I would write to you for ever so many days, but the days all seemed to be in inch pieces and I don't like to write letters I care for, in a hurry. I had a very bad cold that first week after I got home, and this last week I have [been *corrected*] writing a little, working hard (and that is the best thing for me) — Yesterday I got a little tangled up, and went off horseback riding in spite of the mud. I found two or three strips of dry sandy road where

[*Page 2*]

I could have a 'hurry' — and finally after careful avoidance of mud puddles for an hour or so I pulled up my long skirt and splashed home delightfully 'through thick and thin'. The Berwick roads are not models of smoothness at the best, but Major and I didn't mind! And today I am a marvel of good temper and general amiability.

I thought of you so much in church this morning. We have a new minister in the Congregational church — where I go, and I like him so much. You see I am pretty sure he

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reads new [church *corrected*] books* very diligently, for he never could hit on so many of the ideas by accident. But I don't say a word of course — only some day when I have a good chance I am going to try and find out from him. This morning he preached a very fine sermon* from the text "The law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ" — and said a great deal about God's using the children of Israel to teach the rest of the world. I had read it all and understood it before, of course — and it seemed so odd to hear the people get so excited

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over the sermon and say how fine it was. Even Father was quite excited and came up the pew before the benediction was quite through with, to ask me if it wasn't very able! He usually is apt to be rather critical on the poor parsons that fall to our lot in the country — though he never makes fun of people and is always very 'kindly disposed' as you know. But it wasn't Mr. Lewis's sermon so much as its just being the simple truth, and as you said the other day, it always interests people —

I had a charming letter from Ellen Mason* last week.

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She has been down to Newport for a few days and is busier than ever now. She told me such a touching story of one of her hospital acquaintances. I am so glad you liked her and that she cares so much about you — She says [when *written over* if] I come up this Spring we must go out again to Cambridge — but I am a little afraid I must say "if I come" — It would be so nice though! She says "I am so glad to hear whatever you can repeat to me of what he said about my mother — "and I am so

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sorry that I do not remember all of it — It is so strange that you should have known that about Ellen, her intense love for her mother and her reference to her and the influence — I have known her a good while and I never thought much about it though I did recognize it and know it in an indefinite sort of way. Now it seems as if I knew her a great deal better and had the key to so many things. I have to thank you for it. I never can understand how people can think Ellen cold and indifferent for I know what

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a dear brave warm heart she has — I have been with her in hospitals and [among *corrected*] poor people and she is so sweet and kind. I don't see how I am going to be of any use to Ellen — You know you said that you thought we were good friends for each other — And yet in this last letter she told me [she *corrected*] thought she had a great deal to learn from me and that she was thankful she had known me — wasn't that splendid! though I can't understand ^it^ in the very least — I don't believe any girl ever had such nice friends as I have — Only I wish I could see more of them — I read

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the paper you sent me and I don't wonder it had such a sale. I wish there were more [such *?*] preachers as Mr. Giles.* Thank you ever so much for it, and now I must stop chattering. Wont you please tell Miss Sabra* & Mrs. Parsons that I was so sorry I didn't see them. — Good-bye — (Aren't you glad Spring is coming?) With ever so much love

Sarah

Please tell me what "loaves & fishes" mean in the miracle, sometime. "The five loaves and two fishes"*

Notes

1876: This letter refers to Jewett's father enjoying the sermon by the new Congregational minister. George Lewis (Key to Correspondents**)** became pastor in South Berwick in 1876.

new church books: Wikipedia says: "The New Church (or Swedenborgianism) is the name for several historically related Christian denominations that developed as a new religious movement, informed by the writings of Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772)."

sermon: Lewis drew upon an idea much repeated in his time and later: "The law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ." This quotation appears, for example, in *Living Questions of the Age Discussed by James B. Walker* (1877), p. 33.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents**.**

Mr. Giles: It is likely this is Chauncey Giles (1813-1893) author of fiction and New Church literature. See *The Life of Chauncey Giles: As Told in His Diary and Correspondence.* What paper Parsons may refer to in this letter is difficult to determine. That Jewett describes him as a semi-preacher and mentions that the "paper" sold well suggests that it may have been fiction rather than a tract or book on doctrine. Giles's book collections of fiction included: *The Magic Shoes and Other Stories* (1870) and *The Wonderful Pocket and Other Stories* (1864).

Miss Sabra: Mary Sabra Parsons. See Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents**.**

fishes: See Matthew 14.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

[*Spring 1876*]*

[*Page 2*]

If you think so, you may say, I am willing to make the effort, but how shall I do it? — I can go but a little way with the answer, for one of the things you have to do, is to find this out for yourself.

I can however say as much as this. Try in earnest & persistently, “with labour & intent study”* to learn what they do not know and will be the better ^for knowing^. Gladly would God give to men such gifts through you. But this can only be if you persist in tilling the fields he leads you to, — patient when the clouds come, for come they will, resisting discouragement for that too will whisper its words of despair — doing what seems to be your duty, & leaving the result to Him.

There is a verse in one of the Psalms I wish might be your constant prayer — “Lord, cause me to know the way I should walk, for I

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lift up my Soul to thee."*

———————————————-

I have just read over what I have written, and I dare not go further. I know very well I shall not offend you, because you know how much I love you. But I may hurt & trouble you.

Let me offer the only excuse I can. I am so old, that although my health is good as ever, I constantly feel like what ~~they~~ you used to call “a minute man”, — ~~if~~ as if every letter I write you may be my last: & I should be glad, so glad, if I could help you even a little. No man lives to be 78 without wondering what the Lord keeps him in this world for. But if one of the things is that I may be of some assistance to you in finding your way through the labyrinth of life, let me stay & do the best I can.

Good bye dear Sarah. You know I am faithfully y’s

Theophilus Parsons.

Notes

1876: Parsons, who is 78 when he composes this letter, was born on 17 May 1797. This letter was likely written between 1875 and 17 May 1876. It is placed in Spring 1876 because at this time Jewett and Parsons were discussing by letter her attempts to produce morally influential fiction.

“with labour & intent study”: Parsons quotes from English poet John Milton (1608-1674), introduction to Book 2 of *The Reason of Church Government.*

> I began this farre to assent both to them and divers of my friends here at home, and not lesse to an inward prompting which now grew daily upon me, that by labour and intent study (which I take to be my portion in this life) joyn'd with the strong propensity of nature, I might perhaps leave something so written to aftertimes, as they should not willingly let it die.

I lift up my Soul to thee: Psalms 143:8.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_028_01.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cambridge — March 23, 1876

My dear Sarah —

Here is my book.* — Don't I wish it were better worth your reading.

But I believe that it will be of some use, & therefore is worth publishing — and that it is about as good as I can make. All the rest is no concern of mine.

I cannot write your name in it, because the post office laws say I must not.

Most truly y's

Theophilus Parsons

Notes

my book: Probably Parsons has given Jewett his new book, *Outlines of the Religion and Philosophy of Swedenborg* (1876).

The ms. of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: bMS Am 1743 (174).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

27 March 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons

I have just come home from Portsmouth where I have been spending a few days, and I find your book* and note lying on my desk. Thank you ever so much, for I am sure I shall enjoy the book and shall learn a great deal from it. I have been meaning to write to you but I have been sick for a month — first with a horrid sore throat and afterwards with the most outrageous attack of rheumatism, which I began

[*Page 2*]

to think would never be well out of the way — I have done almost nothing, and it is a great disappointment for I hoped to have finished two stories by this time — I suppose it's all right and I shall not fret about it any more than I can help — I feel ever so much better for my visit, but I am not good for anything yet, and I may have the rheumatism again any day! I feel six months older than Methuselah* ever did, and it seems a year since I was in Boston.

— I have been reading a great deal since I have been staying

[*Page 3*]

in the house, and one book has interested me particularly for it was almost entirely new — It is the Royal Commentaries of the Yncas,/ and [was *corrected*] written by a descendant of the Yncas themselves — who died early in the seventeenth century — and who lived in Cuzco until he was twenty or thirty years old. I was most interested in the account of the government and the religious ideas, and I don't know when I have taken more pleasure in any book — There are two large volumes and I have not quite finished them yet — I should like so much to talk with you about them — I suppose Mr. Prescott's book* was taken partly from

[*Page 4*]

this. I have been reading Miss Martineau's "Eastern Life"* over again and I find I like it better every time — Oh dear! I have so many things to ask you and to say to you, and I wish I could see you this afternoon and [have *corrected*] a long talk. I am so glad to have the new book — that will be something like having a talk with you! How is Mrs. Parsons now? I hope to hear she is quite well again, and won't you please give my love to her and Miss Sabra* — I must say goodbye — [not *corrected*] having written anything worth writing, I know, but you will forgive it.

Yours always sincerely

Sarah

Notes

your book: Assuming this was Parsons's latest book, it probably was *Outlines of the Religion and Philosophy of Swedenborg* (1876). See Parsons to Jewett of 23 March 1876.

older than Methuselah: According to Genesis 5:25-26, Methuselah lived more than nine hundred years.

Royal Commentaries of the Yncas …Mr. Prescott's book: Garcilaso de la Vega (1539-1616) published his *First Part of the Royal commentaries of the Yncas* in Lisbon, Portugal in 1609. Cuzco is in Peru. *Wikipedia* says: "William Hickling Prescott (May 4, 1796 - January 28, 1859) was an American historian and Hispanist, who is widely recognized by historiographers to have been the first American scientific historian." Among his major works was *A History of the Conquest of Peru* (1847).

Mrs. Martineau's "Eastern Life": Harriet Martineau (1802-1876) was an English religious writer and reformer, who repudiated her faith and produced radical writing later in her career. Her travel book *Eastern life, Present and Past* appeared in 1848.

Miss Sabra: For Mary Sabra Parsons, see Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons
Fragment

South Berwick

3 Apr. 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons

I have been meaning to write you every day for a week, but there have been ever so many things to prevent, and now at last I have a little time for a talk — I wish so much it could really be a talk, because I have so much to say that I never could get it all into a letter. I like the new book* more and more and I have

[*Page 2*]

learned a great deal from it as I knew I should. I find that I understand it without much trouble, at least it seems as if I did, though I always have a suspicion that a great deal may escape the wisdom I bring to the reading! But then, it is pleasant that one leaves something for the next time, isn't it?

Last night I was thinking about that first time I ever knew you at Wells, and I tried to remember the

[*Page 3*]

first time you ever spoke to me and suddenly it flashed into my head that we were on the piazza at the side of the house looking toward the marshes and '[the *corrected*] point' and we were looking at a yacht, or a ship out at sea and you gave me your spyglass and pointed it and we talked a little while. It was very odd that that should have been the beginning, for I believe that ever since you have been helping me to know more and see more than I should if I had been

[*Page 4*]

left to myself — This has been one of the times when I have liked reading your books, and so many things have come to me — I suppose it ^is^ with me as with everyone else: I can't read such things some times — and I never try to 'make myself" ——

I want to say a great deal about this last book and I could 'say' it if we were talking, but I think it is hard to write it. It seems to me there must be a great many people ready to learn and longing to learn just what they

[*end of manuscript*]

Notes

new book: Parsons apparently gave Jewett his new book, *Outlines of the Religion and Philosophy of Swedenborg* (1876.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Elvira Irwin Furber to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Letterhead made of the letters "E," "I" and "F" superimposed*.]

New York

April 24th, 1876

Dear [Piffy *?*]*

Your letter was [several *?*] in one [*unrecognized word*] & now while alone, will try & answer. I must [*unrecognized word*] to the [*unrecognized word or words*] of this great [*unrecognized word*]. Harry* left this evening [for *?*] Albany, intends returning to-morrow eve. Charlie & [Josh *?*]* will soon

[*Page 2*]

appear; they call daily. Josh came last night, with a [car-coupler *?*], hoping to be able to introduce it on Eastern [roads *?*], but soon after arriving in New York, made arrangements with Harry to remain in his employ. He is well, & in good spirits. Poor [Libbie *?*] has had the misfortune of falling & breaking more bones. The same arm as before, the fracture is on the under part of the arm, about half way between the wrist & elbow. 'Tis not as

[*Page 3*]

serious as the last, although she has suffered intensely with it. [*Unrecognized name*] is [*unrecognized word*] [a new *?*] [*unrecognized word*] treatment from a new physician. [Harry when *?*] in chronic difficulties, has been very successful. He feels confident of success in her case, & already, she writes she feels the good effects. [Jennie *?*] is staying there while [Libbie *?*] is unable to use her arm. [*Unrecognized name*, Emmie *?*] has the care of my two little ones, all are usually well at home, [and *?*] Mother* [*faded word*] our troubling her very

[*Page 4*]

much. [Aunt M.A. *?*]* is still in Kenosha* at the [*unrecognized name*] not receiving water treatment, she is in a perfectly prostrated condition [*faded word*] last Saturday, for nearly four weeks, she has been confined to her bed, & been able to be moved, without fainting. We felt very anxious about her. Her physician says, the cause of her excessive weakness is "The pressure of blood at the base of the brain [gives *?*] way." & her recovery will be slow but sure, she has been very depressed, but is now encouraged. Hattie* is with

[*Down the top margin of page 1, from the left side*]

her & will remain as long as [necessary *?*]. [Hollie *?*] too is there. Harry did not like the idea of his going [there *?*] to board, but it was just where I have long wanted. [*Two unrecognized words*] without his having an idea, [*two unrecognized words*] for treatment.

[*Page 4*]

They are so systematic in everything & as he writes to have such jolly times. It is a hotel on a quiet scale, & very nice people board there, & Willie* is quite a [*unrecognized word*]. This [December *?*] he had taken the responsibility of having Willie remain, [as his leaving *? unrecognized word*] would have [*unrecognized word*] effects ^upon^ [*several unrecognized words*] he is, having the best kind of a time, & I am very glad. Harry is having a yacht built in Chicago,* to be completed by July 15th, "Waubun" by name. It is 80. ft in length, & is to be perfection

[*Page 6*]

in every respect. He intend{s} cruising around in it for two months & is anticipating great times. However I will not attempt to enter into particulars, or expatiate upon it, as you will doubtless see him before that time & he will be more eloquent on the subject than I possibly could be. Do you & [Mrs Patton or Mr Parsons *?*] still correspond? [*Unrecognized name*] says Henry* is not so devoted as he once was. I see but little of him, while at home. I did wish you would happen in last week. Abbie Robinson* visited me

[*Page 7*]

& I am so anxious to have you two meet; & she quite as anxious to make your acquaintance. We had a [very *?*] good time, not gay in the least. The poor thing has a very heavy heart, yet keeps [life *?*] wonderfully. Has recently lost her father, not a month since, & while here, she saw a notice in the morning paper of an assignment of "Ballou & Sons," her father's & brothers mills in Woonsocket,* by which they lose everything. There were 4 [mills *?*] & one estate valued at [$2,000,000 *?*]. So much sorrow all at once, seems hard to [*unrecognized word or words,* endure *?*], More not heard, since [*faded word* her *?*] return to Woonsocket.

[*Page 8*]

When are you coming to the Centennial?* [*Unrecognized name* Elisa___ *?*] is very anxious to come & I hope will, later in the season. [Mrs. *or* Miss] Stockton's* father died recently & she was obliged to remain at home, for the present; all depends upon him{.} [She *?*] misses him very much. I fear by this their matrimonial arrangements may be interfered with for some time. Have you heard of [*faded word*] [Gaville's *?*] death? She will be very much missed in G.B.* [*Faded sentence*] She had many friends. Death seemed so foreign to her. [Oh! *?*] I could tell you of Green Bay people, all [night if only an opportunity offered. *?*]

[*Page 9*]

I would like to see you Piffy & if you enjoy fine paintings & pictures generally, & elegant books &c. would like you to look over our collections. Though not extensive, are very fine "so say we all of us."* We have the Dresden, Stafford & Turner Galleries Illuminated Scrapbook* [& various *?*] others, all of which [I am *?*] sure you would enjoy. I have about concluded to remain in our present [position *?*] till July. [have *?*] so many things difficult to move & not worth while moving twice within so short a time. A home of our own* I almost despair of. You will think this an egotistical [lecture, but *?*] present company

[*Page 10*]

has interrupted several times & I fear my letter will read like "The pathetic stories in [Webster's "unabridged *?*]". Write me soon, & tell me of each & all of you, & that your pastimes [really *?*] are doing fine. Love to all, & accept much for yourself. 'Tis late & I will [out of compassion *?*] for you [bid *?*] you good night.

[Ever *?*] with love.

Your friend

E. I. Furber.

Notes

Piffy: This transcription is uncertain. This appears to be a variation of the nickname, Pfby, by which Sarah Orne Jewett's sister, Caroline, addresses her in a few letters.

Harry ... Charlie ... Josh: Harry almost certainly is the writer's husband, Henry Jewett Furber, Sr. Charlie and Josh (if the name is correctly transcribed) have not been identified. It is possible that Charlie is Henry Jewett's brother, Charles William Furber (1835-), and that Josh is Joshua Whitney, husband of Mr. Furber's sister, Elizabeth Francis Irwin (1830-1909). However, Mrs. Furber's sister, Maria Jane (1828-1912) was married to Charles Wheelock. Whatever their identities, the two men seem to be business associates of Henry Furber.

Libbie ... Jennie ... Emmie ... Mother: Libbie *may* be Mrs. Furber's sister, Elizabeth. If the transcription of Emmie is correct, then she may be another of Mrs Furber's sisters, Emilie Virginia Irwin (1847-1919). The transcriptions of Jennie is uncertain, and she remains unidentified.

Kenosha: The Pennoyer Sanitarium in Kenosha, Wisconsin was among a number of institutions in the United States where one could receive hydrotherapy, known as "the water cure," in the 19th-century.

Aunt M.A.: If this transcription is correct, Mrs. Furber may refer to her maternal aunt, MaryAnn Smith (1822-1908).

Hattie ... Hollie: Hattie is likely to be another of Mrs. Furber's sisters, Harriette Brown Irwin (1839-1928). The transcription of Hollie is uncertain, and she remains unidentified.

Willie: Almost certainly the Furbers' oldest son, William Ebert Furber.

yacht built in Chicago: The *Inter Ocean* from (Chicago) of 18 July 1876 (p. 7) reports that H. J. Furber has launched his new yacht, built in Chicago by William W. Bates. The story says that the $12,000 steam yacht's name, *Waubun*, "in the tongue of the red man, signifies early light or morning light." It appears that the Furbers had sold the yacht by 1883, but it continues to appear in news stories about sailing on the Great Lakes until at least 1900.

[*Mrs Patton or Mr Parsons ?*]: While Mrs. Furber appears to have written "Mrs Patton," Jewett is not known to have corresponded with anyone of that name, while, in fact, Theophilus Parsons was a prominent and frequent correspondent at this time. Key to Correspondents.

Henry: Probably this is the Furber's second son, Henry Jewett Furber, Jr. He would be about 11 years old at this time.

Abbie Robinson: Abigail Colburn "Abbie" Ballou Robinson (1828-1893). See notes below.

Woonsocket: In the 19th century, a Rhode Island mill town. Mrs. Furber refers to George Colburn Ballou (1798 - 25 March 1876) and Dexter Ballou (1789-1849), mill owners in Woonsocket, RI. George Ballou married Ruth Elizabeth Aldrich (1801-1873). Their children included Abigail Colburn Ballou.

Centennial: The Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA, was held from 10 May until 10 November 1876. Jewett attended in June-July, and reported the "heat was awful." See Jewett's story, "The Flight of Betsey Lane," in *A Native of Winby*.

[*Mrs. or Miss*] *Stockton's* father died recently*: These persons have not been identified.

[*Gaville's ?*] *death ... G.B.*: The transcription is uncertain, and this Green Bay citizen who seems to have died in 1876 has not been identified.

all of us: Mrs. Furber may be quoting from the popular song, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Illuminated Scrapbook: Mrs. Furber seems to refer to a specific book, but this is not listed in WorldCat. The Dresden Gallery in Germany owns a large collection of classic European painting. The Stafford Gallery may be the former Shire Hall art gallery in Stafford, England. The transcription of "Turner" is uncertain. If it is correct, then which gallery Mrs. Furber means still is uncertain, as the best-known separate collections of the paintings of J. W. M. Turner, in Cardiff, Wales and at the Tate Gallery in London, were established after 1876.

home of our own: Henry Furber purchased a lot in New York City in November of 1876. In May 1879, he moved the family permanently to Chicago.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy. The microfilm copy of this manuscript is quite difficult to transcribe, yet still Mrs. Furber's composition, as she suggests, contains a number of omissions and, perhaps, some unintended substitutions. This transcription probably can be improved by viewing the original manuscript.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

27 April 1876

Dear Anna

I haven't been at all prompt in [answering *corrected*] your two valued letters, which I received at a time [*mark*] when my spirits were low on account of two severe attacks of rheumatism in rapid succession. Words cannot express my appreciation of your sympathetic words and cheerful discussion of interesting topics. I forgot the infirmities of age and wished I were with you to go on with the conversation. What a sweet thing friendship is!

[*Page 2*]

and now — to speak seriously — I have been miserable most of the time since I wrote you last and am just beginning to feel like my self again — I am terribly hard at work on my stories, and am getting on capitally at last, though it worries me to think I had to break up all my plans and promises. I am trying to finish some of my work before the first of May but I think it a forlorn hope — It was pleasant to hear of your Washington life and the people you see — and I had a

[*Page 3*]

good laugh over Mr. Bancroft's literary friend!* He must have considered it an [inestimable *corrected*] privilege to meet her! —

2nd May — I have not been able to finish my letter before, though I have thought of it every day. I have a friend visiting me, and every thing seems to have come together. I don't see how I can possibly have anything to do all summer after this. I don't see [what *corrected*] will be left! We have a church fair coming off on Thursday for one item: and you probably know what that means, in a small town? I am hurrying to finish some copying and when I go over to 'the old house' to my work my friend

[*Page 4*]

goes with me, and reads and takes naps and otherwise kindly entertains herself — I hope she is having a good time, poor thing! but I have serious doubts. However there's nothing else to be done, & she seems reasonably cheerful. I had such a nice letter from Ella* last night. Instead of losing her on account of her being married, I think she has grown nicer and I truly never enjoyed her more. I may go to town next week and then I shall see her — for a call at least — I have to do some shopping for I begin to [realize *corrected*] that the middle of June (the time set for my Phila. visit)* is

[*Page 5*]

not so very far off. I want to go on some accounts and rather dread it on others, as it will be sure to be hot weather — and hot weather in Philadelphia goes beyond any other hot weather in the world in point of making you feel good for nothing —

I don't see how you ever get time for reading! I have read less this spring than I ever have before I think — While* I had the rheumatism I devoted myself somewhat to literature — I had some very nice books about Ancient Peru which I found very interesting. Do get the "Royal Commentaries of the Yncas" published by the 'Hakluyt Society,'* — some day — for I know

[*Page 6*]

you would be highly entertained. I had Prescott* afterward and it really seemed dull. I feel it my duty to read a sufficient amount of the history of my own country: this being the Centennial year! I haven't begun yet— and I must say I don't get up much enthusiasm over it —

Miss Seeger* wishes me to give you her kindest regards — I believe I didn't tell you that it is she who is staying with me, and Mary* wishes to mention that she is tempted to get another wedding ^herself^ for the sake of meeting you and having another improving occasion like that in November which will never fade from her memory! Good bye and forgive me for this stupid letter which I have had to write at odd times.

Yrs. Sincerely

Sarah Jewett

Notes

Mr. Bancroft's literary friend: Though this can only be speculative, it seems possible that Jewett refers to George Bancroft (1800-1891), the Massachusetts-born historian and statesman. He apparently was living in Washington, DC after 1874. The identity of his literary friend is not known. Wikipedia.

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Philadelphia: Jewett attended the Centennial International Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA. Wikipedia.

While: This word may be underlined.

Royal Commentaries of the Yncas published by the Hakluyt Society ... Prescott: Garcilaso de la Vega (1539-1616) published his *First Part of the Royal commentaries of the Yncas* in Lisbon, Portugal in 1609. *Wikipedia* says: "William Hickling Prescott (May 4, 1796 - January 28, 1859) was an American historian and Hispanist, who is widely recognized by historiographers to have been the first American scientific historian." Among his major works was *A History of the Conquest of Peru* (1847).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Seeger: See Eliza Seeger in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

3 May 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons

I haven't much to tell you, only I felt like writing. — I have been working like a beaver, trying to get my stories done and now things begin to look a little more hopeful. Mr. Howells* thinks I had better not try to have the book come out until next spring, and, though I am

disappointed in one way, still it is a great relief. Having been sick

[*Page 2*]

has of course hindered me very much and used up the time I supposed should have been for work — and I should have had to write a good deal in the hottest weather, if the book had come out in September or October — as I thought it would at first — I can make it better I think ~~but~~ by having this summer's experiences — to put into the list of "Deephaven" affairs.

Just now I have a friend visiting me and I do not work quite so steadily though she goes over to the old house with me almost

[*Page 3*]

every day and sleeps or reads while I write awhile, and then we go out for a walk together.* This is just the Mayflower season and we are both very fond of them — We had such a lovely walk down the river bank yesterday!

Since I wrote you I have grown very much interested in another friend — a girl several years younger than I. She is the daughter of a Methodist minister who has been stationed here — and I knew her a little in the winter — but she lived in another part of the village

[*Page 4*]

and I never saw much of her — but after a while I found out that they have had such a pitiful time — for they are very much nicer people than their parishioners, who took a dislike to Lily's* father and have had "no end of a row" all the time he has been here — — I heard of it of course, but I didn't take much interest in it until this spring, and then I felt so sorry and so ashamed that I hadn't been on the look-out for so plain a chance of giving people pleasure and making them have a better time — Other people felt so too — and

[*Page 5*]

2

I think the last of their stay was really much pleasanter — 'The Minister' is a scholarly man who is sensitive and morbid and never had the handling of such a parish as the Landing parish before — and he didn't understand the people any better than they did him I suppose — I liked Lily when I first saw her, and lately I have seen her almost every day — and she is such a nice girl — I have tried ever so hard to help her, and it seemed like going over my own nineteenth year again — for she has been going through with very much the same things I did then

[*Page 6*]

and she gets very forlorn often times — which I understand perfectly — It is so pleasant to have her care about me. It is the first time I have had a girl so much younger than I for a crony, and I am so glad to be older than she, and to be where I could make things easier — It almost [frightened *or* frightens *?*] me to find how much she cares for what I say, for I am always getting into snares myself — She went away yesterday and she seemed so sorry to say goodbye and I'm sure I was. But they're going to one of

[*Page 7*]

the nicest parishes in the state (Farmington) and she is going to school again, or will go on with some studies at least — for that is pretty much all she delights in — beside her music. You don't know how much I am interested in her, and I am sure she will make a fine woman by and by — I only hope she will be like her mother, and I think she will — She is just waking up now to what life means, and it has been hard — but she seems a great deal happier — I hope you aren't tired with all this long story — but I wanted to tell you. It has done me good

[*Page 8*]

being with her — and I realize more than I ever did before that the best thing in the world is to be helpful —

I must end my letter in a hurry. I believe I don't do anything more than five minutes at a time (<u>except</u> sleeping!) for we are to have a fair at the church and there is 'company' at the house — and I am running errands and scribbling at odd minutes —

Please give my love to Mrs. Parsons — and to Miss Sabra.* I think I may go to Boston within a fortnight just for a day or two and I shall go out to Cambridge if I possibly can —

Yours sincerely Sarah

Notes

Mr. Howells ... the book: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in the spring of 1877.

the old house: In May 1876, Jewett was living in what later became the Jewett-Eastman House, the South Berwick Public Library, and then part of the Sarah Orne Jewett House Museum. It appears that she sometimes went next door to write, at the Jewett homestead.

Lily: Lillian Munger. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Sabra: For Mary Sabra Parsons. See Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881.

Ellen Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston

May 15th [*1876*]*

My dear Sarah,

I had no intention of letting so long a time pass in silence, and the reason for my having done so is not that I have not thought of you, for that I have very often. I suppose you have by this time returned from your Exeter visit. I do hope you are getting back

[*Page 2*]

your strength, for it must be a hard discipline to "stand and wait"* when one is impatient to begin. I can well understand your feelings, for you know I am very impatient by nature, and find waiting the hardest thing in the world to do. Kate* seems to be rather wretched just now and I dread the hot weather for her. You know she hates a city so when it is warm, and feels as if she could not live in it. It was just so

[*Page 3*]

two years ago when she was here, and of course N. Y. is worse. Her plan is to go with her Mother to Orange this week, and stay thereabouts until the middle of June, when I think she will come to Newport. Miss Birckhead is anxious for her to try Mt Desert, and if we hear of a pleasant party there I may get Kate to go, so as to escape the heat of August. I could take her there myself, and stay a week perhaps —

I am glad you like Fénélon.* I knew you would. Keep it as long as you like, for it is a book

[*Page 4*]

not to be read in a hurry. I do not know if I told you about the "Récit d'une Soeur" by Mrs Craven,* which I have been taking great delight in lately. I am beginning now Eugénie de Guérin's Journal* again. It is interesting to reread a book after a space of some years. I find that I take much more interest in both these books than I did before, and I think it is partly because as one gets older one cares more for truth & reality, and does not care so much for fictitious excitements{.} Both these books are quiet and take their interest from

[*Page 5*]

the pictures of inner life that they represent, and that is just what one cares most for the longer one lives. I have just got a delightful book, which I hope you will see some day. It is the "Life of Mother Margaret," an English Sister of Charity (Roman Catholic). I am going to the drawing class I told you about, I think, and enjoy it exceedingly. The teacher is such a good one, that I have learnt a good deal, and hope to sketch a little from nature this summer. When are you coming to town?

[*Page 6*]

It seems to me that you said you were coming in May. The country is beginning to look beautiful now. Ida* & I drove out of town the other day and got some lovely violets. I have been getting flowers seeds for Newport, and writing to our gardener about them. It is a pity to lose this lovely season in which everything in nature is born. I envy now everyone who lives in the country. I wish you would write me soon and tell me how you are.

Affly yours

Ellen Mason

Notes

1876: Penciled in the upper right corner of page 1 is "1870 —"

An envelope associated with this letter was canceled on 14 April, no year given. In the upper left corner of the front of the envelope is penciled: "A gentlewoman of Boston in 1870." The envelope could not have contained this letter if Mason's date is correct. Rather this letter belongs with others from Mason to Jewett that are tentatively dated to 1876. Each of these mentions loaning Jewett a copy of a Fénélon title, and shares other elements of content.

"stand and wait": Mason refers to the sonnet "When I consider how my light is spent," by British poet John Milton (1608-1674). The final line is "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Kate: This person has not yet been identified. Typically, when Jewett and her friends refer to "Kate" without a surname, readers assume the person is Kate Birckhead, who is mentioned later in this letter as a person with whom Kate might travel at a later date. Therefore, this cannot be Birckhead. Among their other mutual acquaintances was Katherine Loring, but there is as yet no evidence to confirm that this is the right "Kate." Key to Correspondents.

Miss Birckhead: Kate Birckhead. Key to Correspondents.

Fénélon: François de Salignac de la Mothe Fénelon (1651-1715) was a French writer, theologian, and bishop. Wikipedia.

Paula Blanchard believes they shared *Selections from the Writings of Fénélon* (1829), translated and edited by Eliza Cabot Follen (*Sarah Orne Jewett*, p. 87).

To date, the earliest known references to Fénelon in Jewett occur in two letters from 1876, to Theophilus Parsons on 24 August and to Anna Dawes on 8 October.

Mrs Craven: Wikipedia says: "Pauline Marie Armande Aglaé Craven (née Ferron de La Ferronnays; 12 April 1808 - 1 April 1891) was a French author." She married Augustus Craven in 1834. Her memoir, *Récit d'une Soeur: Souvenirs de Famille* was published in Paris in 1866; an English translation, *A Sister's Story*, by Emily Bowles appeared in 1868.

Eugénie de Guérin's Journal: Eugénie de Guérin (1804-1858) lived a solitary, retiring life in a château near Albi in southern France, near the Spanish border. *The Journal of Eugénie de Guérin* first appeared in French posthumously, in 1855. There was an English translation available by 1865 and other editions followed. The 1855 French publication also included writings grouped under the title *Reliquiae* that are notable for their spiritual, melancholy quality. During the years 1832-34, she kept her *Journal intime* (personal journal) for her absent brother, Maurice, the famous poet who later died tragically young of tuberculosis while under her care. (Research assistance: Carla Zecher)

"Life of Mother Margaret": *The Life of Mother Margaret Mary Hallahan: foundress of the English congregation of St. Catherine of Siena of the third order of St. Dominic* by Augusta Theodosia Drane, was published in 1869. Wikipedia confirms: Margaret Hallahan (1803-1868) "was an English Catholic nun, foundress of the Dominican Congregation of St. Catherine of Siena (third order)."

Ida: Ellen Mason's sister. See Mason in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_016_01.

Anna Laurens Dawes to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Letterhead design with initials AD*]

Washington, D.C.

May 26, 1876

My Dear Sara [*so spelled*]

Wouldn't it be nice if one could sit down and answer a letter just when they got it, or at the very moment when the mood seized them. You would get much "larger pieces" of my lining and less ugly patchwork in that case — to quote ideas if not words from Mrs. Whitney.*

[*Page 2*]

Have you read that last book of hers Lights and Insights* or don't you worship at that shrine? I have been for a long time — and grow each year more vociferous — one of those who cry "Great is Allah and Mrs. Whitney is his prophet." It is true that I can't understand everything in her books, but I don't believe she can either! so I don't care for that.

So you have been writing and writing and a child stretches her

[*Page 3*]

writing, which being translated, means enjoying yourself. I might be more inclined to be envious if a friend of mine hadn't written

“The world might all go wrong
With one too many daisies —”*

Do you know that sweet, fresh little daisy poem did me a world of good. It made me think of a pen & ink sketch you once made Ella,* wherein a child stretches her abbreviated neck

[*Page 4*]

unavailingly toward a knot hole in the fence. And it gave me a sense of companionship firstly, and it said a world of things to me secondly — fifteenthly. If I had any ability I should illuminate it & hang it up in my apartment!

So Lulie and Wallace are about to marry, and then, having their cake, are going to eat it in Europe. To all appearances the raisins are

[*Page 5*

a letterhead page, with text written through the design]

almost too thick therein. Still I am too much pleased for them to be very envious. Are you going down to the wedding?* I greatly regret that I can't be there to disturb the ^morning^ slumbers of the guests, but I expect to spend that portion of my existence improving my mind at the expense of my body in Philadelphia.* Don't fail to write me full particulars.

[*Page 6*]

We leave here the 5th of June, and stay in Philadelphia a few days. I don't suppose either ~~health~~ ^strength^ or purses will allow more than that. Then we shall be at home for a brief

season I hope. Only they who board half their lives* know what home means. I will not descend to vulgar particulars, but if ever you need a

[*Page 7*]

feeling description of that method of existence, I shall be only too happy to supply at a moderate price!

I'm almost through, and I haven't told you that I've been to New York! Nearly four weeks I spent in and around that pivot of earth. Very good times I had too, and delightful

[*Page 8*]

acquaintances I made to say nothing of old friendships revamped.

I really must close for I have a thousand things to do. Please give my love to your sister, and write very soon to

Your beloving friend

Anna L. Dawes

Notes

Mrs. Whitney: American poet, Adeline Dutton Train Whitney (1824-1906). Wikipedia.

daisies: From Jewett's poem, "Discontent," which appeared in *St. Nicholas* 3 (February 1876), 247, and was reprinted often thereafter. The quotation varies from printed versions.

Lights and Insights: Though in some sources, Whitney's 1876 book is listed under the title of *Lights and Insights*, the actual title was *Sights and Insights: Patience Strong's Story of Over the Way.*

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Philadelphia: Jewett attended the Centennial International Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA.

wedding: Hollis says, "Neither Sarah nor Anna attended the wedding of Julie Walworth and Wallace Pierce, although both took a proprietary interest in this as in so many of the Walworth household affairs"

As Hollis's note indicates, he transcribed the word I read as "Lulie" as "Julie." Lacking access to the now comparatively easy-to-obtain details about the Walworth family, Hollis did not discover that Stella Louise Walworth married Wallace Pierce in June 1876. Presumably, Lulie, based on her middle name, was a nickname for Stella. See Ella Walworth Little in Key to Correspondents.

board half their lives: As the daughter of a United States Senator, Dawes resided about half of each year in Washington, DC. See her entry in Key to Correspondents.

This letter was originally transcribed and annotated by C. Carroll Hollis. It appeared in "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes," *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. The manuscript is held by the Columbia University Library. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

29 May 1876

Dear Anna

I was delighted to get your letter just now and though there are fifty other things I ought to do instead, I am going to give myself the pleasure of having a little talk with you — I came home from Portsmouth half an hour ago, where I have been spending Sunday with Georgie Halliburton.* It was a very pleasant Sunday for my younger

[*Page 2*]

sister* was also there (with another friend) and she was confirmed last evening — Of course I was very glad for her sake — and then it brought back my own confirmation most vividly, and it came over me how much happiness and how many good things have come to me since that day and how many things have 'come true' and are realities which used to be only dreams and wishes — It was one of [the *corrected*] times when one stops to look back = you know exactly how I felt, I'm sure,

[*Page 3*]

and isn't it funny that I <u>should</u> be 'sure' and should be writing in this way to you? It is very nice to be sure of people; I'm certain of that and somehow it seems as if I had already had the nice long quiet talks with you which I am sure I shall have some day —

I am so glad you like Mrs. Whitney* for I do, dearly, and I think no book ever did me more good than that blessed "Leslie Goldthwaite{.}" I did not realize how much

[*Page 4*]

I learned from it until within a year or two — I read it first when I was [fifteen *corrected*] or sixteen and just at the right time — and the older I grow the more I find in it — and it seems to me it strikes the key note of all her other books. I think Mrs. Whitney has done [an *corrected*]

immense deal of good, and I know you 'lots' better since I know you like her — I haven't read the last book yet —

I have been so busy! Since

[*Page 5*]

2

I wrote you I have been in Boston a few days shopping & spent a night with [Ella *corrected*]* who is nicer than ever I think — and since I came home I have been sewing and we have had visitors most of the time. There [*stray mark ?*] are old schoolmates of Mary's here now — I'm going to N. Y. & Phila* in [about *?*] ten days and I expect to die of the heat. We three girls are going together

[*Page 6*]

and what father & mother will do I'm sure I can't tell — I wish I could see you. We are to be at the Windsor in N. Y. until the 20th of June and after that in Phila — until after the fourth — At the Windsor we are to be with Mrs. H. J. Furber* and if you don't go straight through do be good and let me know — though I understand only too well how hard it is to make

[*Page 7*]

appointments at such times and I shall understand perfectly if you tell me afterward you were in the city a week!!

I'm so glad that you like the daisy,* dear, and it was so good of you to tell me — I have some new little scraps and if I were not writing with all my might and with the guiltiest conscience I would send you one or two — I can't be at the

[*Page 8*]

wedding. I'm very sorry but it is impossible for us to get [ready *corrected*] to go ^to N. Y.^ at the time we are invited and we are having to hurry. And I know I shall be tired out anyway — so I shall not try — We hope to get off by the fifth — With love to you [in *?*] which Mary would heartily join.

Yours sincerely and fondly

Sarah —

Beg pardon for not “staying written to”! ———

Notes

Halliburton: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

sister: Jewett's younger sister was Caroline. Her older sister, also mentioned here was Mary. Key to Correspondents.

Hollis notes: "That Caroline Augusta Jewett was confirmed in Portsmouth, NH suggests that she, like Sarah, was not confirmed in the South Berwick First Parish Congregational church that her family attended at home, but at St. John's Episcopalian Church in Portsmouth."

Whitney: American author, Adeline Dutton Train Whitney (1824-1906) was the author of *A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life* (1866). Her "last book" mentioned here as well was *Sights and Insights: Patience Strong's Story of Over the Way* (1876).

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Phila: Jewett attended the Centennial International Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA.

Mrs. H. J. Furber: Elvira Irwin Furber. Key to Correspondents.

the daisy: Jewett refers to her poem, "Discontent," which first appeared in *St. Nicholas* (3:247) February 1876.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

31 May 1876*

Dear Prof. Parsons

I have been meaning and hoping to write you ever since I came home but I have been so busy with visitors and sewing and getting ready for my N.Y. & Philadelphia visits that I have been in a continual hurry. I am to leave for New York the eighth I believe, but

[*Page 2*]

[but *repeated*] I must confess I am not enthusiastic — for it is so pleasant here, and I dread the hot weather. Both my sisters are going with me and I dare say we shall have a jolly time after all, and I think it is very naughty to dislike going, especially when so many people I know wish to go to the Centennial* and cannot! —

I liked that novel "The

[*Page 3*]

Three Feathers"* ever so much and I was glad I did not read it when we had it in Littell, for it was so nice to have it week before last, one day when I was tired and felt exactly like reading it — I will send it back to you soon —

I wish I could ^have^ stayed longer that day when I went to see you, but I was an hour late at Ellen's* as it was! I had a very nice talk with her that afternoon

[*Page 4*]

only I wished to stay longer there too — I hate having to hurry about as I did while I was in Boston —

There are ever so many things I wish to tell you, but the stories are too long and I must say goodbye. I wish I could see you this beautiful day!

Yours ever lovingly

Sarah —

Notes

1876: Jewett's handwriting of this date is ambiguous. Other readers have agreed that she wrote 31 May, but to my eye, it could just as easily be 21 May.

the centennial: During May through November 1876 an International Centennial Exhibition took place in Philadelphia to commemorate the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776. See Jewett's story, "The Flight of Betsey Lane," in *A Native of Winby*.

"The Three Feathers" ... Littell: *Three feathers: a Novel* by William Black (1841-1898), appeared in 1875. The novel was serialized in *Littell's Living Age* beginning in April 1875. Black authored a Jewett favorite, *The Princess of Thule* (1874).

Ellen's: Ellen Frances Mason. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cambridge June 3./76

My dear Sarah —

I cannot let you run away to the great Exposition,* without a bit of an answer to your note, or rather notes. I should ~~not~~ have written you before; but for some weeks a pressure of work has lain upon me which more than exhausted the little capacity of labour which remains either to my brain or my fingers. And now I have taken a half sheet, because when I begin writing to you, I never leave off until I have filled the sheet, & so I set this limit to my wandering.

I read with interest all you write me, — and with especial interest what you have to say of your work & study. I expect your new book, I had almost said anxiously. You can do so much good. I want to see you doing at least

[*Page 2*]

some of it. Your faculty of <u>suggesting</u> truth and good is one I hope to see ^you^ cultivate & exercise, as much for your own good as for that of your readers. And you may be sure, that the more of this you do, <u>in your own way</u>, the more readers you will have. So in your conversation. You are perfectly right in abstaining from intruding any of the new truths you have learned upon unwilling hearers. But then we never can know who are unwilling. You will do the best thing you can I believe, by never either obtruding or avoiding the avowal of your beliefs, when the avowal lies in your way. The time has gone by when such an avowal was <u>risky</u>. Of nothing am I more certain, than that, generally, among such persons as you would make friends of, there would be a reception, — an interested hearing if not ~~a~~ distinct welcome, — to anything you could say of this sort. <u>Try this</u>, & find out if I am not right. And [hear *so spelled*] my scrap must end.

faithfully y's T. P.

Notes

great Exposition: "The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, the first official World's Fair in the United States, was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from May 10 to November 10, 1876, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia." Wikipedia

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers CollectionMWWC0196_02_00_027_01. Transcription and notes by Terry & Linda Heller, Coe College.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

The Windsor, N. Y.

9 June 1876

Dear Anna

I will certainly meet you if I possibly can. The only thing which would hinder me is that my friends may possibly make some plan for me and if I only know of your coming in season [*stray mark ?*] I will take care of that. I do wish to see you ever so much — and I was so glad to find your note

[*Page 2*]

waiting when I reached here at eleven last night. I think we should keep up a majestic correspondence if we acted upon our impulses — for I should like to send you a long letter this morning!

I shall probably be here until the 20th if I live so long in this heat — You mustn't think it will be any trouble to me to meet you for we are very

[*Page 3*]

near the station here — and I can easily go over — and if it is in the evening I can have the man for company I think ——-

Aren't you glad you are going home? I don't mean by this that I am homesick myself; but the country is so lovely, and it is so nice to be in one's own quarters — I thought of Ella yesterday, and of the bride,* but I had

[*Page 4*]

no time to do anything but 'think.' If you were only here! I have ever so many things on my tongue's end to say — If you have more than an hour or two, why cant you come here? Good bye dear and Mary's* love to you.

Yours sincerely, Sarah

Notes

Ella ... the bride: Ella Walworth Little and Stella Louise Walworth Pierce. Key to Correspondents.

Mary's: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

——-

The Riverside Press

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

[*End letterhead*]

June 10, 1876

Dear Miss Jewett:

I am sorry to find that you were right in your misgivings about this story. It's very brightly written — that is to say, you wrote it — but there is no climax beyond the éclairissment of [Tom *?*]* which somehow isn't a climax and ^then^ it appears to one impossible that you should do successfully what you've undertaken ^in^ it, assume a young man's character in the

[*Page 2*]

supposed narrator. It seems possible for fictionists to create characters of the opposite sex — though I suspect that men's women and women's men are a good deal alike — but when it comes to casting the whole autobiographical ^being^ in a character of the alien sex, the line is drawn distinctly.

I think your proposed Deephaven* finish is capital, and I shall look forward to reading it with great pleasure.

[*Page 3*]

I'm sorry you distress yourself about what you said of your [Mrs L. *?*] for Mrs Howells and I both understand, and never attributed unkindness to you. — We are just on the eve of going into the country, that is, we're going next Wednesday and York [seems *?*] a great way off to everything but our longing. The fact is we spent all our money in the Centennial,* and we're expecting to ["push" *?*] for months to come. But we feel grateful to you all the same, and Mrs. Howells wishes to be cordially remembered to your sister

[*Page 4*]

and yourself.

Yours truly

W. D. Howells. —

Notes

Tom: Whether Jewett has submitted a story she later revised and published is not yet known. She published two stories for adults over the next six years that included main characters named Tom: "Hallowell's Pretty Sister" (1880) and "Tom's Husband" (1882), though in neither is "Tom" the narrator.

Deephaven: Jewett's final "Deephaven" sketch, "Deephaven Excursions" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (38:277-290), September 1876.

Centennial: The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 10 to November 10, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

The Windsor – Tuesday

13 June 1876*

I am afraid that I cannot meet you tomorrow, for there is a plan for me going up to West Point, made at my own suggestion. It seems to be the only day which suits every body else, and of course I can't stay at home and I should be sorry to miss the trip too — as I never have been up the Hudson except at night by rail — I told Mrs. F.*

[*Page 2*]

days ago how much I should like to see the river from the boat and how disappointed I had been every time I have had to take the train and the result was that we made a plan to go all together and I'm so sorry they have chosen tomorrow! You will understand I know dear — I am so sorry to miss you for I have thought about it a great deal — and hoped we should have a nice talk.

[*Page 3*]

——- I have just come home from a tremendous journey to Brooklyn and "Greenwood"* and I am so tired, and stupid as an owl. Thank you so much for your letter which I have been reading — It brings me very near you, and I understand you so well. No, it doesn't take years to be sure of ones friends as you say. I wonder if you know and like as I do a little poem of H.H.'s*

[*Page 4*]

in which she says:

"That newest friend is oldest friend in this:
That, waiting him, we longest grieved to miss
One thing we sought" ——-

I wish you were here just now for I have the library all to myself — and we would take the two biggest chairs and pull them close together — I'm pretty tired — but I don't believe I should be cross! — I am having such a good time. I think I never enjoyed New York half so much before and I like this careless

[*Page 5*]

jolly life just now, for I had been working hard and have not been very well, and I need just such a "vacation" though perhaps it is impertinent in me to think I "need" one. My friends are angels of kindness and Mrs. F. puts her carriages at your service and racks her dear brain to find out what amuses you and where you wish to go — and The Windsor is lovely and I have been hungry as a bear ever

[*Page 6*]

since I came and — there are such good things to eat, and I am happy!! I am glad your experience of the Centennial* has been so pleasant. And I wish we could have been there together — I saw such a jolly play last night — "Pique"* though by "jolly" I mean only that I liked it — and to tell the truth it is tragic for the most part — I like to be "harrowed up"

[*Page 6*]

don't you?

I think if this ink were black I might write longer, but there is some^thing^ discouraging about it today — I use it in my work, but I hate it for letters, somehow — It is growing dark in the room and I suppose I might as well get ready for dinner and stretch out on the sofa to rest myself, for I believe I am to go somewhere this evening —

I know you will understand

[*Page 8*]

about my not meeting you and believe me when I say I am very much disappointed{.} I do hope I shall see you before very long — I wish I could have changed the plans and arranged to be here — but don't you [know *corrected*] when one is with half a dozen people one can't do exactly as one pleases. I hope you will have a lovely summer — God bless you dear and help you to keep close to Him, and give you His peace and His strength always.

Yours sincerely Sarah.

Notes

1876: Hollis notes that "there is no salutation for this message. Indeed this would seem to be a letter carried from one hotel to another in New York City by a servant or messenger. In days before telephones, perhaps regular dispatches between major hotels was standard practice."

Mrs. F: Elvira Irwin Furber. Key to Correspondents. West Point, NY, was then, as now, the location of the United States Military Academy. Wikipedia.

Greenwood: Hollis notes that "Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn was something of a tourist attraction during the middle years of the nineteenth century." Wikipedia.

centennial: The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia. Wikipedia.

not collected: The quotation is from American poet Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885), "My New Friend." See *Verses* (1892), p. 111. Wikipedia.

Pique: American playwright, John Augustin Daly (1838-1899) adapted *Pique* (1875) from *Her Lord and Master* (1871), a novel by British author Florence Marryat (1833-1899). Wikipedia. Hollis notes that the play also made use of "the public excitement caused by the kidnapping of Charley Ross," G.C.D. Odell, *Annals of the New York Stage* (New York, 1938), X, 16."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Ellen Frances Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

Newport

June 19 [*1876*]*

My dear Sarah

I want you to keep Fénélon,* for I have found another copy for myself, and I would like you to have that one. I am so glad you like it as Kate & I do.* Kate is with me now, and will remain a good part of the summer I

[*Page 2*]

hope. Since her return from Orange she has seemed really better — She has not once had the horrid dream feeling, and is able to do more than she could a year ago. For instance this morning she got up at ~~before~~ 7 l/2, and walked with me down on the beach, and yesterday we went and sat several hours on the rocks in the middle of the

[*Page 3*]

day. She seems to feel more confidence in herself, and I think she has more self-control. Of course we must expect that if the weather gets hot, she will be less well, and doubtless she will have her ups & downs, but I do think that she is improved — She has been through a great deal lately, before coming back, which pulled her down and made

[*Page 4*]

her rather thin — The last few weeks in N. Y. were very hard to bear, and she seems to have been forlorn at Orange, so the delight of getting home is greater by contrast. Miss Birckhead* is going to Mt. Desert next month probably, and Kate talks of joining her there, but I do not believe will do so — She came here on the 10th, and I came on the 14th —

[*Page 5*]

Before that, I passed a few days at Cohasset with the drawing class I have been enjoying so much this Spring. We sketched all the time, very badly of course, but it was extremely amusing, and somewhat profitable I think. I expect Mme Bragin* our teacher in August when she will have a class for sketching which of course I shall

[*Page 6*]

join. My sister Mrs Winthrop* is at Lenox this summer, much to our regret. It seems hard to lose so much of our little nephew's babyhood. Ida* is staying there now, and as Father is also away for a few days, Kate & I are keeping house together. We are reading very diligently, and intend drawing out a plan of how much to do every

[*Page 7*]

day, so as to be very systematic. Today we began directly after breakfast, she with German, I with Greek, and worked for about two hours. Then we read aloud for another couple of hours or more — a very nice book by Tyrwhitt — "Christian Art & Symbolism." We have also on hand a new book by Stephens with the high sounding title of "Liberty Equality

[*Page 8*]

Fraternity," Palgrave's "Travels in Eastern Arabia" & Taine's "English Notes,"* not to speak of sundry novels waiting to be read. Does not that sound industrious for a summer in this dolce

far niente* Newport? I want to hear all about you, and hope you will let me hear from you very soon — That "Mother Margaret"* I spoke to you about, I got

[*Up the left and across the top of page 1*]

at Patrick Donahoe's* in Boston. It is a ponderous volume, and I do not know if you would care enough about it to own it. If you like I will lend you mine when I have finished it.

With love,

Yrs affly

Ellen Mason

Notes

1876: While this date is a guess, it should be close. This letter is connected with another from Mason to Jewett of 14 April, tentatively dated in 1876, in which Mason says she has loaned Jewett her copy of a Fénélon title. This letter adds some support to the 1876 date, mentioning Mason's infant nephew, Robert Mason Winthrop, born in 1873. She also mentions two books that were published in 1874, by Tyrwhitt and by Stephen. See notes below.

Kate: This person has not yet been identified. Typically, when Jewett and her friends refer to "Kate" without a surname, readers assume the person is Kate Birckhead, who is mentioned later in this letter as a person with whom Kate might travel at a later date. Therefore, this cannot be Birckhead. Among their other mutual acquaintances was Katherine Loring, but there is as yet no evidence to confirm that this is the right "Kate." Key to Correspondents.

Fénélon: François de Salignac de la Mothe Fénelon (1651-1715) was a French writer, theologian, and bishop. Wikipedia. Paula Blanchard believes Mason and Jewett shared *Selections from the Writings of Fénélon* (1829), translated and edited by Eliza Cabot Follen (*Sarah Orne Jewet*t, p. 87).

Miss Birckhead: Kate Birckhead. Key to Correspondents.

M^me^ Bragin: This transcription is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

Mrs Winthrop: Ellen Mason's sister, Elizabeth. See Mason in Key to Correspondents.

Ida: Ellen Mason's sister. See Mason in Key to Correspondents.

Tyrwhitt … Stephens ... Palgrave's ... Taine's: Richard St John Tyrwhitt (1827-1895) was an English cleric and author, writing often about art. *Christian Art and Symbolism* appeared in 1874.

Sir James Fitzjames Stephen (1829-1894) was an English jurist and author. His *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* (1873-1874) presented an argument against John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* (1859).

William Gifford Palgrave (1826-1888) was an English cleric, traveler, and author. His *Narrative of a Year's Journey through Central and Eastern Arabia: 1862-63* appeared in two volumes in 1865.

Hippolyte Adolphe Taine (1828-1893) was a French historian. His *Notes on England* appeared French and in English in 1872.
dolce far niente: An Italian phrase adopted into English — pleasant idleness.

"Mother Margaret": *The Life of Mother Margaret Mary Hallahan: foundress of the English congregation of St. Catherine of Siena of the third order of St. Dominic* by Augusta Theodosia Drane, was published in 1869. Wikipedia affirms: Margaret Hallahan (1803-1868) "was an English Catholic nun, foundress of the Dominican Congregation of St. Catherine of Siena (third order)."

Patrick Donahoe's: Patrick Donahoe (1811-1901) was an Irish-American journalist and publisher in Boston, specializing in Roman Catholic literature.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_017_01.

Charles C. Hoyt* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston, Juy 1st, 1876

Dear Miss Jewett; —

You finished your very welcome and pleasant letter with "Write me again when you feel like it." The spirit moved as soon as the sentence was read and several times since have I felt the desire, but remembering

[*Page 2*]

all the work that [*deleted word* you *?*] you wrote me about, ~~and~~ delayed that you might not think me to importunate.

It is not in the conventional way at all, but very heartily that I would like to thank you for your letter and the interest you took in the essay.

I wish I knew the secret that you have of making your letters

[*Page 3*]

so much unlike letters generally, and yet so like what you would speak that, I verily believed I could hear the words spoken.

The more highly that I esteemed your judgment ^in^ ~~upon~~ literary matters, the less chance I felt there was of your seeing anything but a very commonplace attempt in my trying to write something of Whittier,* as

[*Page 4*]

he appeared to me.

That you should find enough of truth in it, to give a 'good idea of him' made me quite happy. What you say of 'writing more' is very encouraging. Still it seems that my failure can never be so shaped as to admit of anything in a literary way except upon similar occasions, before the few who either

[*Page 5; there appears to be a number at the top of this page:* 2.]

have not the knowledge to be critical or the desire. At the same time, it is true that there is no work or occupation which has a greater charm or more invitation in it than that of the writer.

Circumstances so presented themselves that my desire for a collegiate course was nipped ['i *so this appears*] the bud — probably for the best, although it does seem a great

[*Page 6*]

advantage in a literary career.

The truth is, I strongly suspect, that Charley* has just enough of the imagination in his character to militate against any success in the practical way of business, but still not enough to accomplish anything in the higher field of the pen. Pass we him by for the present.

[*Page 7*]

You will think he intrudes his personality too much now, I fear.

Perhaps I spoke to you of the Debating and Literary Club we were trying to organize for next winter. It looks as though it will be a success.

The Constitution has been prepared and adopted; there are twenty-five names down; the officers have been

[*Page 8*]

elected, and the appointments for the first regular meeting to be held the last of September made. The other two members of the Executive Committee have illegally used their majority to appoint me to 'orate.'

What do you think of some such subject as "Men of Genius" or "William Prince of Orange"* or "Duty?" You want something that you can get

[*Page 9*]

rather enthusiastic upon, don't you?

The day has been very warm with us, but while I have been writing, a very sudden and violent thunder-storm has begun and finished its brief reign: (No joke intended){.} Do not you enjoy the sight of a storm? They rouse all the [combattive *so spelled*] spirit that is in me. I always wish that I might

[*Page 10*]

be out in them and fight my way against the fierce wind and feel that rain driving against my cheek.

"When one has an idea in one's head of being a general one doesn't like doing the uninteresting work of a private [*possibly a deleted question mark*] — but after all that is the surest way."* I think so most decidedly. Success in the lower walk prefigures and leads to

[*Page 11*]

success in the higher one, and failure in the one is failure in the other.

And is there not more still in the figure{?} The general, who leads his troops conquering and to conquer is "no figurehead.{"} He must do work that many a private "would shrink from.{"} Napoleon's* sleepless night with the incessant works of the great brain that weighed all the chances and planned the campaign; Wellington*

[*Page 12*]

looking after the smallest details of his army — the shoes for the soldiers and their bread, were no holiday officers. I believe the sooner a man realizes that success in anything comes only from honest and hard work; the sooner he sees the duty of it, so much the nearer he is to gaining the coveted prize, which foolish idlers wait for in vain, and attribute the distribution of prizes to a blind goddess.* Can

[*Page 13*]

you tell me what it is in our natures that deadens our energies and keeps us from that road that we know by experience, is the only safe one to attain whatever object we have in view — the road of hard work? Of course, I shall like to hear from you very much, but do not take time that you need for more important things.

I am

very truly yours

Chas. C. Hoyt

Notes

Charles C. Hoyt: Nothing is yet known with certainty about this correspondent. Possibly he is the Boston businessman, Charles Chase Hoyt (1855-). In 1897, he became vice-president of Walworth Manufacturing, the company founded by Ella Walworth Britton's father. Key to Correspondents.

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

William Prince of Orange: William III (1650-1702), prince of the Dutch Republic, was widely known as William of Orange. He became king of England in 1688 in the "Glorious Revolution."

Charley: It seems clear that the writer refers to himself in the third person.

the surest way: Hoyt's quotation marks suggest that he is quoting someone in this sentence, but a source has not been located.

Napoleon: "Napoléon Bonaparte (15 August 1769 - 5 May 1821) was a French statesman and military leader who rose to prominence during the French Revolution and led several successful campaigns during the French Revolutionary Wars. As Napoleon, he was Emperor of the French from 1804 until 1814, and again briefly in 1815 ...." Wikipedia.

Wellington: Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (1769-1852), "was an Anglo-Irish soldier and statesman who was one of the leading military and political figures of 19th-century Britain. His defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 put him in the first rank of Britain's military heroes." Wikipedia.

blind goddess: The classical goddess Fortuna (Roman) or Tyche (Greek) has sometimes been represented as blind to suggest life's seeming capriciousness.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

12 July 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons.

Did you ever know such hot weather? I am very glad to have seen the Centennial,* but the heat was awful and if I had had to stay two or three weeks longer I think I should have hated the Centennial and Philadelphia with an undying hatred and never wished to go back there again! This is not

[*Page 2*]

very sensible I know, but every time I go out of reach of the sea in summer I [solemnly *corrected*] declare I never will again —

But I don't wish all this to make you think that I didn't have a good time and enjoy a great deal. My visit in New York was charming — There were six girls visiting my friend at once, at the Windsor Hotel and we were as jolly as any six girls you ever saw! I was

[*Page 3*]

there two weeks and then in Philadelphia between two and three — I learned a great deal at 'the Centennial' and saw it as carefully and faithfully as possible. I wish I were with you and could chatter about the sights. When I try to tell you what I liked best it is very hard, because I liked so many things 'best'! There was a big bronze vase in the Japanese department with its handles made of

[*Page 4*]

cluster of swallows snarled together as only a Japanese could snarl them. — I think this comes first but how can I forget a picture called "Betty" and another picture of a donkey out in a snowstorm and a Japanese picture of a triumphal procession of grasshoppers and a bust of Helen of Troy, and some Norwegian wax figures and a lovely Florentine mosaic and some old Peruvian pottery and then there was

[*Page 5*]

a bewitching [machine *corrected*] over in Machinery Hall which made peppermints all day long. I could go on with this list all day — and I may as well stop here — I shall have no end of things to tell you when I see you again. I meant to write you and thought of it almost every day but I was so busy and so tired that I hardly found time even for writing shabby little notes home.

[*Page 6*]

I haven't much to tell you beside this (which I fear is hardly worth telling) — We are having visitors constantly now and I am stupid and lazy since I came home and have not touched some copying I meant to finish as soon as I got back — I am hoping to go to the sea shore for two or three weeks by and by. My aunt

[*Page 7*]

and cousins whom I have visited at Little Boar's Head* in July for several summers, are all abroad — and so I am waiting longer than usual

and I miss the sea — Yesterday some of us went out to the Shoals* and that was delicious.

I have not said a word about your letter which came just before I left, and which I [carried *corrected*] with me, and thank you for most [heartily *corrected*] {.}

[*Page 8*]

I wish I knew some better way to thank you for it than by writing a few words on a sheet of paper —

I am hoping to see one of my Deephaven sketches* in the Aug. Atlantic, which is due in a few days now — It is one I wrote in the winter and I think I told you about it — —— I wonder if you are to be anywhere near here this summer? Good by Yours lovingly and sincerely.

Sarah —

Notes

Windsor Hotel … New York: Wikipedia says: "The Windsor Hotel was located at 575 Fifth Avenue (at the corner of East 47th Street) in Manhattan, New York. The seven-story hotel opened in 1873, at a time when hotel residency was becoming popular with the wealthy, and it was advertised as "the most comfortable and homelike hotel in New York. It burned down in 1899 with great loss of life.

the Philadelphia centennial: The 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, PA. Wikipedia.

Little Boar's Head: See Mrs. Alice Dunlap Gilman in Key to Correspondents.

the Shoals: Isles of the Shoals off the coast of Portsmouth, NH.

Deephaven sketches: "Deephaven Excursions" actually appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (38:277-290), September 1876, though the issue would have been available in late August. See Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett of 24 July 1876.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*24 July 1876*]*

D. E. will be in the Sept. number.

W. D. Howells

Notes

1876: This postal card addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, ME was canceled 24 July. The 1876 date is implied by Howells's reference to D.E., or "Deephaven Excursions," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1876.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105).

Elizabeth B. Orne* to Sarah Orne Jewett

—— Bryn Mawr

—— July 24. 1876.

My Dear Sarah

Although I reached home safely on Friday, this is the first opportunity* I have had to write to you.

Mr. Abbott met me in Boston & we went to the Tremont House* for dinner, then took a walk on the Common & left at half past four o'clock for Fall River. We had a charming trip & reach{ed} New York, then

[*Page 2*]

Phila, & finally Bryn Mawr in safety, where I received a warm welcome from all hands. Mamma declared I shall never go away again as she missed me so very much.

Mr. Abbott came all the way here with me stayed over night, went to town for a short time on Saturday & then came out & remained over Sunday.

This place is just lovely not a fault to find of any description & the weather so cool that thick dresses & shawls are required to make one feel comfortable.

[*Page 3*]

Have you had a sea turn yet & is it cool in Berwick?

I did have such a lovely time there, everybody was so kind & did all they could for my enjoyment & I thank you all for your attention & hope to reciprocate it sometime in the future.

Please thank your parents, sisters, Mr. Eastman,* & your friends not forgetting yourself for all the pleasures & good times I had whilst in Berwick & tell them I heartily appreciate all this kindness.

[*Page 4*]

Did Sadie* arrive safely! I asked Mr. Abbott if he saw her & he said that he wrote to Will Howell asking if he should meet Sadie in Boston & let him know. He did not hear a word from him (W. H.) so did not know whether Sadie had come on or not. He went to the Depôt but found the train had already arrived & was quite worried to know what had become of her ^but was^ very much relieved, however, when he heard from me that Eddie* was coming with her. Do write

[*Cross written up the left side of page 4*]

real soon & tell me all you are doing & how you are enjoying Sadie's visit!

With love for all of you & kind regards to Mr. Eastman & your other friends

I am ever your loving cousin

Lizzie B. Orne

Notes

Elizabeth B. Orne: The identify of this Jewett cousin remains unknown. See 26 July 1876 to Dawes, in which Jewett reports that three cousins have been visiting.

first opportunity: July 24 fell on a Monday in 1876.

1876: The Columbia University identification of this letter notes that with it is an envelope cancelled at Bryn Mawr, PA, 24 July 1876.

Mr. Abbott: It seems possible that this is William G. Abbott of Philadelphia, who married an Elizabeth B. Orne. Their daughter, Elizabeth Abbott, was born and died in 1872. They appear in the 1905 Philadelphia Social Register with Caroline M., William G. Jr., and Edward Abbott.

Tremont House ... the Common: The Tremont House Hotel (1829), like Boston Common, a public park, were landmarks of Boston in 1876.

Mr. Eastman: Edwin Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Sadie: Sarah Jane McHenry Howell. Her husband was William Howell. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters. Transcription from a microfilm copy of the manuscript.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

26 July 1876

Poor dear Dawes-y! did she think her friend meant to go back on her? I am afraid you [will *corrected*] find me a bad correspondent, but we will not say anything about it, and I know you will consider this delay, only an accident, and accept the apologies which I offer — I have been so busy and so tired since I came home and we have had three of our Philadelphia cousins with us beside other friends, and there have been two voyages

[*Page 2*]

to the Isles of Shoals and a picnic at the seashore and numberless long drives, and mornings and afternoons ^spent in^ boating down river. I am getting rested since the cooler weather, and it is lovely here now: I think Berwick is new to me every year and never was half so pleasant as it is this summer. I wish I could have you here to see it for yourself, but I know it is no use asking you. Sometime you will come and see me wont you?

Oh I <u>do</u> wish I could

[*Page 3*]

write this letter all in one piece — but there is no use trying for people walk in and out and I have to stop on account of a caller — and 'lots of things' happen — Just now I went upstairs and saw an inviting chunk of candy on my table so I had to stop to eat that — I was sorry too that I couldn't go to visit you. I should have liked it dearly. I know I have told you this before, but it is a comfort to me to say it again so you needn't mention [it's *so written*] being a repetition — I must say over again also that I

[*Page 4*]

wish I knew your Mother!

I like so much what you said about those two novels (You see I go from one thing to another but this was another interruption) I have not read [either *corrected*] of the stories but I know exactly what they both are — I began Mr. James's story* but I can't remember it now — Mr. Howells* told me (or Mrs. H.) that this was better than anything he had written and unusually free from his usual faults. I am going to read it by and by — But I wish I were with you to talk about the two stories — I wonder if

[*Page 5*]

you detected the connection between the two parts of your letter which I did! It was this question of the stories, and your not having seen any of the Centennial* show cases! I think ~~for~~ ^between^ a person who doesn't see show cases in this world, and a person who <u>does</u> there lies a wide difference. And this world seems a very different world and the people very different people. I don't know whether you see any connection now — but I was thinking of

[*Page 6*]

your having looked at the goods inside and not noticed the outside things and the decorations which after all did not make the buttons or the tacks or the carvings and jewelry one bit better. I suppose we are all more or less influenced by people's position in the "worlds fair" ~~and~~ the houses they live in and the company they keep — but I thank the Lord that you and I have some slight capacity at any rate, for liking people for

[*Page 7*]

themselves — what they <u>are</u> — and not what they <u>have</u>. I dont like Mr. James's characters — that is I shouldn't like real people who acted and thought after his fashions but I think he writes [cleverly *corrected*] about them and makes them more or less interesting — And I think as you [do *written over* did *?*] that the moral of ^the^ thing is not good. But I must not write any more about this — I am thinking of going out for a call with my cousins and I wish to finish this before I start — I wish

[*Page 8*]

I could express my satisfaction at the cooler weather — Have you had a wood-fire in the parlor fireplace and the thermometer at 54° one morning? I am beginning to lose my dragged out Centennial feeling and to feel some interest~~ing~~ in what I [do *written over* did *?*] beside sleep, and be on the sofa reading. I am afraid I have been cross and stupid since I have been here — and it [worries *corrected*] me to think how little I tried to do for one of my friends who has gone away — Every thing seems so discouraging

[*Page 9*]

when I am tired and not feeling strong — but it is so much satisfaction if one can do right and be good-natured under such circumstances.

Fair-weather sailing isn't half ^the^ satisfaction — These remarks are made wistfully, and in the spirit of great humility, for I forget so easily and am so careless about trying hard. Life seems very different as I grow older, but always pleasanter, and more "worth while" — in spite of the troubles that come — I have

[*Page 10*]

had singular few 'troubles' except with myself — but those have not been easy to carry by any means —

Well, good night dear. I wonder if you know how often I think of [you, and *corrected*] if you will not care a little when I say that I have somehow grown fond of you and think of you as one of my real friends — I do believe with you that sometimes one may "get acquainted" more easily

[*Page 11*]

through letters than by being together. So much of my 'friendship' with nearly all my cronies has been carried on with pen and ink, that it seems natural — I am really very little with some of my best friends — But I am none the less fond of seeing the girls, though I have not the usual contempt for letters — Mary's* love to you and she says she should even be willing to be pounced upon early in the morning for the sake of seeing you.

Yours sincerely

S.O.J.

Notes

story: Hollis believes Jewett refers, "either to *Roderick Hudson*, James's first novel, which had just been published but had appeared in serial form in the *Atlantic* from January to December 1875, or to *The American*, which had just started in the *Atlantic* for June 1876 and was to continue until May1877." For Henry James, see Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Howells ... (or Mrs. H.): William Dean Howells and Elinor Mead Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Centennial: "The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, the first official World's Fair in the United States, was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from May 10 to November 10, 1876, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia." Wikipedia

Mary's: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New

transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

24th August 1876*

Dear Prof. Parson

Your letter was a god-send, as I believe your letters always are — and since it came I have been thinking a great deal — It is exactly what I wish to do, this being in earnest about my work and being helpful through the stories I send away to be printed — and those stories of mine which I like best are the ones you speak of in saying that "in some" I am "on the way" — And I hope with all my heart (I believe too,) that I can go on learning faster and faster and

[*Page 2*]

may have more and more that grand gift of using my knowledge and the good I get — to help other people — And besides this I hold on fast to one sentence in your letter 'The best we can do is the thing we ought to do{'} — Through the times of carelessness and indifference, I do try never to lose sight of my work and what I wish to make it — I am not contented with anything short of the best, and I can see how you are [discontented *corrected*] with those Deephaven sketches.* I wish I could always write things that would do people good and that I could always

[*Page 3*]

have a meaning underlie everything else as I did in Miss Sydney and the Dull Christmas,* but those successes seem to come rarely and you may be sure I take fast hold of plans like them — I want to say a word about Deephaven though, and particularly this one you have just read — The first sketch I know has nothing in it beyond mere entertainment — but I felt a much deeper interest in the others — they are both 'true' and I know you would have felt better satisfied with the 'funeral sketch{'} if the authorities had not left out a few paragraphs

[*Page 4*]

which I wrote carefully and which held for me the meaning of that pathetic breaking-up of a pitiful family* — I don't remember it very accurately now — but I know I said something about our lives having two sides and although we might be apparent failures in this world still there was a chance that life had been a grand success — And I said how few in this world poor or rich touched satisfaction, and how this man's hopes and wishes might all have been realized in a decent sort of farm and a thousand or two dollars in the bank — and I said that when his wife died his world had

[*Page 5*]

2

come to an end, as it were, and he was bewildered and discouraged and could not fight so hard and so useless a battle as life seemed to him — There was something, too, [*deletion*] (which followed the man's saying that he had 'gone' — when the funeral had left the house —) about the invisible world's being so near — but I can't remember that at all — I was very sorry when I found these things had been left out, for (to me) they gave more character to the sketch — In ^writing^ the sketch of Miss Sally Cutts* the most touching thing to me was her perfect faith in God, and her

[*Pages 6-7 missing from digital ms copy*]*

being so uncomplaining when (to 'worldly' eyes at least), she had lost everything. I do like writing such stories as these of real lives — and I think there is no reading which interests me so much. I learn from a life more than from preaching and you don't know the lessons I get every week from the country people whom I see and talk with. — It seems to me if I lived in a city, all the time with the same set of people, I should like knowing the way people felt and thought <u>out</u> of my set and particularly country people and simple people who are a great deal out of doors and know nothing about 'society'. — I suppose it is because I feel this so strongly that I have enjoyed 'Deephaven' — And yet the pleasure of making a study of life, does not compare with the consciousness that one has known a life well enough to see where one may help to unravel a snarl, or to make it interesting and worth while, where it seemed dull before; — and to bring more purpose, and the thought of God oftener — to help the life to be a more Christian life. —

When I try to think about myself it frightens me to think how likely I am to fail in doing

[*Page 8*]

this — So many days seem to be lost in careless drifting, and even in doing the best work I often do not have the best motive for I like to please my friends and ^not^ to disappoint them, and there is a great deal of pride which would let me worry and be sorry if I failed, even though I had done the best I could and God did not mean for me to succeed — Sometimes I wonder why I do not know myself better, when I find it so easy to know other people. If I try to "think myself over" there is almost always something which stops me — and I can go

[*Page 9*]

3

no farther — There is one thing; I am sure I don't get discouraged as I used with myself, and I understand better now that I am [*deletion*] here to learn lessons, for one thing — I came across something in Fénélon the other day that I liked very much* — 'We ought not to [*deletion*] be discouraged [because *corrected*] the harder we try to be good the more wickedness we discover in ourselves — It is because the sun is coming up and we see clearly all the things that were indistinct or hidden while we were still in the dark' —

I do care to be loved and I have a great deal to make me happy

[*Page 10*]

as you say in your letter, but I have had a great deal that [*marginal deletion*] is hard, and the hardest has been myself — to fight against, and yet duty does not seem so much of a cloud as you think it does — and it seems less of a cloud every year — I do long to ^be^ better and my being able to write gives me such a chance for being helpful — but it seems often as if I tried to be generous to people when my purse was empty — Getting closer to God: that is the great thing, and I don't think of Him half enough — I am always forgetting Him and what I am trying

[*Page 11*]

to do — and the more I realize that He is our Best Friend the less it seems to me I know how to gain a way of living that will let me understand better and be more filled with love for [him *not capitalized*], and more earnest in doing His work — It is always 'through a glass, darkly',* with me — and I suppose it must always seem so, for He is so great and there will be so much beyond us — But nothing makes life seem better and more worth while than to think we are always to spend it in finding out more of the love of God and more of his wisdom.

You never will know how much

[*Page 12*]

I thank you for taking so much interest in my work and in me — and for helping me as you have, ever since I have known you — You do not know how much you have done for me, or how much you have helped me to do for myself —

I have written a long letter but I wish I could burn it and have a long talk with you. I have read your letter over and over and there is more in it every time than I saw before — I am sure that in heaven I shall find some new words — for there are some things now, I can never say for lack of them. Goodbye and God bless you

Sarah ——

Notes

1876: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, and cancelled in South Berwick on 24 August.

Deephaven sketches: By the time this letter was composed, Jewett had published all three of the sketches from which she developed her first novel, *Deephaven* (1877). "The Shore House" appeared in *Atlantic* in September 1873, "Deephaven Cronies" in September 1875, and "Deephaven Excursions" in September 1876, which would have just appeared at about the time of this letter.

Miss Sydney and the Dull Christmas: "Miss Sydney's Flowers" first appeared in *The Independent* (26:1-4) for July 16, 1874, and then was collected in *Old Friends and New* in 1879. "Patty's Dull Christmas" first appeared in *The Independent* (27:25-27) on December 23, 1875 and was collected in *Play Days* in 1878.

the 'funeral sketch" … breaking-up of a pitiful family: See "In Shadow," in *Deephaven.* To that chapter of the novel, Jewett added a paragraph that includes the material that was removed from "Deephaven Excursions."

To Kate and me there came a sudden consciousness of the mystery and inevitableness of death; it was not fear, thank God! but a thought of how certain it was that some day it would be a mystery to us no longer. And there was a thought, too, of the limitation of this present life; we were waiting there, in company with the people, the great sea, and the rocks and fields themselves, on this side the boundary. We knew just then how close to this familiar, every-day world might be the other, which at times before had seemed so far away, out of reach of even our thoughts, beyond the distant stars.

Miss Sally Cutts: Paula Blanchard points out that a number of Jewett's characters in *Deephaven* were based on people she knew in and around South Berwick. Miss Chauncey is based upon Sally Cutts of Kittery, ME. See *Sarah Orne Jewett* (1994), p. 86. For an account of Cutts, see Chapter 10 of *Nooks and Corners of the New England Coast* (1875) by Samuel Adams Drake.

copy: These two pages are transcribed from Henry Ellicott Magill's typescript of this letter.

Fénélon: François de Salignac de la Mothe Fénelon (1651-1715) was a French writer, theologian, and bishop. Wikipedia.

The passage to which Jewett refers may be from Letter VII, "Not to be troubled about unintentional omissions in confession" of March 21, 1690, in *Spiritual Letters* (1877), pp. 28-30.

'through a glass, darkly' : Corinthians 13:12.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

26 Aug. 1876*

Dear Prof. Parsons

Have you any idea whether they keep the manuscripts of the magazine stories? I find I have not any copy of that part of the sketch which was left out, for some of it I wrote 'out of my head' when I was copying. I should like to get it, and yet I don't like to bother Mr. Howells* and find fault

[*Page 2*]

with him, since he is so kind and has taken so much trouble for me — I was very sorry that the sketch had to be shortened but I thought that Mr. H — knew I was wishing it would be published, and it was too long, and [those *corrected*] passages would be less missed than any of the narrative — I wish he had told me, for I could have easily shortened the article five or ten pages and not have done

[*Page 3*]

it so much harm — I know they keep some of the articles [in *corrected*] Manuscript and perhaps I could write to the Riverside Press and get mine. Do you think so? ——

Indeed I wish to know what you have to tell me ^about^ it, and I am counting upon seeing you. I probably shall not see Boston until late in the month — I can't tell exactly; I am to visit a friend in Concord and I wait her summons — I am to be at the sea-shore for awhile first — and I

[*Page 4*]

cant make any definite plans until I hear from my friend. I am not to stay in Boston for a visit I think — but I shall see you —

Yours sincerely

Sarah —

The reason I want the ms. is if I put the stories together in a book { — } I should like to have the whole of this.*

Notes

1876: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, cancelled in South Berwick on 26 August.

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

whole of this: Whether Jewett actually recovered the excised material from "Deephaven Excursions," which appeared in *Atlantic* in September 1876, is not yet known. When she worked this sketch into her novel, *Deephaven* (1877), she added a paragraph near the end of "In Shadow," the chapter on the funeral. See notes for Jewett to Parsons of 24 August 1876.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Elisha Scudder

South Berwick, Maine

14 Sept. 1876

My dear Mr. Scudder

My name is Sarah Orne Jewett, if you please; and when you are arranging [the *corrected from* this] index, can you credit a story to me which was called Mr. Bruce* and printed in the Atlantic for December 1869? ——-

So much for business which properly ought to come before my saying how much pleasure

[*Page 2*]

it has given me to hear from you again and to know something about you. Indeed I do wish very much to see you sometime in Cambridge and I hope to manage it this [autumn *? corrected*] certainly, but hitherto I have just gone out from Boston with not half enough time for what I had to do — and I have been meaning to make certain calls and have unfailingly put

them off, for a long time — I was not in town last winter except for very short visits —

[*Page 3*]

Shirley* must be very pleasant, but what do you do in that small room of yours when you are tired with writing and [wish *corrected*] to stretch your arms, or don't you appreciate the satisfaction of that? — I am sorry your little girl has been so ill, and I hope she is already a great deal better.

No. I haven't dug a clam all summer, for what with the Centennial* and a visit to N. Y. in June, and the house filled with visitors ever since we came home in July, I have only been down to the Shore half a dozen

[*Page 4*]

times and only for the day, which doesn't count with me. But I am going down directly to spend a week — and then I know where to go for those clams and where to get an old dory with as many leaks as a basket — and I know where the cunners hold county conferences out in the harbour — where two other little boys and I caught a hundred and thirty in just no time at all one day last summer — This is all in York which reminds me of my dear Deephaven

[*Page 5*]

though that was 'made up' before I had ever stayed overnight in York, or knew and loved it as I do now — Since the Shore House* was written I have identified Deephaven with it more and more — Still I don't like to have people say that I mean York when I say Deephaven — I should like to see you and have a long talk and I hope I shall one of these days — I am having such a good time just now out of doors: this

[*Page 6*]

morning I have been rowing down river; yesterday I went up Agamenticus* and could see seventy miles of sea-coast and all the White Hills, and two days ago I went to the Cliff which is a place you ought to see — Please give my regards to Mrs. Scudder whom I am hoping to know —

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

Mr. Bruce: Richard Cary, who produced a transcription of this letter for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*, notes the occasion of this letter: "*The Atlantic Monthly Index, 1857-1876* was being prepared and Miss Jewett, having outgrown her passion for pseudonyms, wished to set the record straight." "Mr. Bruce" appeared in *Atlantic* (24:701-710), December 1869, and was collected in *Old Friends and New*, 1879.

Shirley: Cary also explains that Shirley was "near Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where Mrs. Scudder spent the summer in a house owned by the Shakers. Scudder joined her from time to time as work would allow."

Centennial: The Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA.

Shore House: Jewett's story, "The Shore House," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1873. It became part of her first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

Agamenticus: Mount Agamenticus is the highest point in York County, ME. Jewett's "White Hills" are now better known as the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Cary identifies "the Cliff" as Bald Head Cliff in Ogunquit, ME.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

[*September 1876*]*

2.*

I wish you had heard it. Kate Birck head* did not come up to Beth* after all. I wish she had —— I shall tell Georgie* how much in love with her you are — is not she lovely? —— what a pity that you did not go to Mr. March's* you would have enjoyed it so much, & I should have liked you to have seen it —— it's so lovely there. One thing I must tell you about & that is about Dalton where we stopped to dine in one

[*Page 2*]

of our wanderings.

I shall not tell you any thing about the perfect view we had from Mt. Washington* & how fortunate we were in having such a pleasant day — [or *corrected*] of the wheel's coming off the engine when we were about half way up, & how we & the car [were *corrected*] left to our fates — to slide down the mountain or stay [where *corrected*] we were & broil in the hot [sun *corrected and deleted*] ^sun^ till the other engine came up for us — or how we did the latter for about three quarters of an hour — nor anything about the grand drive down the Mt. on the Glen side* — nor how much

[*Page 3*]

more beautiful the drive was to me than even the view from the top, nor how there were frightful chasms & depths & magnificent precipices all the way down on either one side of the carriage road or the other, nor how Kitty* & I rode on the seat with the driver & enjoyed & appreciated it all fully, nor how my head ached all the time I was up there till I got down to a rational atmosphere — nor how I took my hat ~~down~~ ^off^ & the jolting of the wagon shook all my hair down & I drove down looking like a raving maniac & enjoying everything all the [more *corrected*] nor how some ladies in a wagon we met asked if I'd lost my hat, thinking I suppose

[*Page 4*]

that it blew such guns up there that it was impossible to keep one's hat on — & I shan't tell you how we stayed all night at the Glen nor how I've always longed to go there nor how I want to go again —— nor how we left there the next morning at about nine & drove thirty-seven miles back to Beth — by the way of Jefferson — through a most romantic [road *corrected*] & beautiful scenery. Nor how we dined there & got back to Bethlehem about night — And I shall not tell you how we remained quiet for a few days & then started off again for Lancaster & Dalton, nor how unexpected it was, & how Papa came into the parlor Wednesday [ming *meaning* morning] at about ten & asked us what we should say to

[*Page 5*]

3. —

such an excursion, nor how we all said "yes" & rushed up stairs, changed dresses, locked bureaus trunks & doors & packed travelling bags & in a half an hour ^found ourselves^ flying over the hills to Lancaster — nor how we did [fairly *?*] fly. Then Papa at last began to expostulate with the driver who of course was most good natured & said he certainly wished to do as would be most agreeable to us & then cracked his whip & whistled to his horses & away we [went *?*] faster than ever, even faster than my pen is going at this present time —— nor how this little conversation was carried on at intervals all the way to Lancaster, with as little

[*Page 6*]

success on our part & as much good nature & seeming desire to oblige on the part of the driver — ^nor how^ we arrived in Lancaster all out of breath, all but Mamma, who declared that she never enjoyed ~~bee~~ a drive so much in all her life —— nor how I never was so glad to get out of a wagon in all my life, feeling as if I were shaken to atoms — nor how the mystery of the fast driving was soon made clear by our finding out that there was a horse race there, which our driver evidently took quite an interest in — nor how he after dinner asked leave to go to it, nor how we ^not only^ indulged

[*Page 7*]

but accompanied him —— & had a jolly time, nor how we stayed there all night, Kitty & the Children & I in one big room so big that we were obliged to take opera glasses & speaking trumpets to bed with us, that we might see each other & converse in the [morning *abbreviated*], nor how the children [surprised *?*] us by waking us up at an hour earlier than was [necessary *corrected*] — nor how we did not find it out till we were <u>dressed</u> — nor how lucky [it *corrected*] was, for it took us much longer to dress in that room every thing being so much further apart

[*Page 8*]

& the [joshing *?*] we had to take in consequence — I shall not, I say, tell you any thing about all that, nor about something else that I forgot to tell you [*& ?*] I should not tell you & that was about Kitty, Helen, the children & I all going over to Crawfords — the Notch*— & spending the day ^the day before we went to Lancaster^ nor how we all enjoyed it, nor what a charming drive home we had by moon light —— well all that I shall not write you any thing about, as I said before, but I shall & must tell you about <u>Dalton</u> — we went there from Lancaster where, I suppose I shall be <u>obliged to tell</u> you, we went

[*Page 9*]

from Bethlehem, but that's all I shall say about it —- well, <u>we went to Dalton</u> — & the drive there is perfect, through woods & all most all the way by the Connecticut river, a most beautiful view & every thing was lovely —— but the House there was what took my heart — & I wish to go there next summer & spend three of four weeks. The House is quite large though nothing like the Glen House — but it is so prettily furnished & in so home like a manner — I know if I stayed there I should feel all the time as if I were visiting, it

[*Page 10*]

might be inconvenient if I allowed that impression to take such a hold of me that I should be inclined to go away with out paying —— But Mamma said she felt as if she were visiting an English nobleman. Mr. Sumner who owned the house, but does not keep it, is a fine looking old <u>gentleman</u> — & quite agreeable — As you enter there is a large ^square^ hall right through the house, a very handsome oak stair case, after the same style at Auntie's — lovely

little parlors & a library filled with [charming *abbreviated*] books for the use of the guests — besides the [large *or* larger] parlors which is also delightful. — then up stairs the

[*Page 11*]

6 =

bed rooms are elegant, all furnished most lovely ly {—} some of the beds having muslin curtains looped up with ribbons — & lounges in all the rooms, french windows opening on balconies, & another little ~~let~~ bookcase up stairs —— the river runs at the back of the house & from the back piazza there is a [charming *abbreviated*] walk through an avenue of pines & a lovely arbor down to the banks [*random mark*] of the river which are wooded —— it is perfect there & do you wonder that I longed to stay there — Then I must tell you about the table —

[*Page 12*]

every thing was so delicious & served so beautifully, the dinner set all had an orange colored border & the dessert set a green border & we did not have to have a barricade of those horrid little oval dishes with one spoonful of vegetables in them, all round our plates — but they were civilized & had good sized vegetable dishes with enough in them for our whole party. While we were there we went across the ferry, a real, bonafide, old fashioned ferry — to Lunenburg* — which is in Vermont & quite high & from which there is a lovely view — I hated to leave

[*Up the left margin of page 11*]

Dalton — Should not you think* I would have?

[*Down the right margin of page 12*]

but we did —— drove home by way of Littleton

[*Down the left margin of page 12*]

all the way by the river —— but we left it there & [climed *so spelled*] up to Bethlehem — where we arrived soon after 8 —

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Love to Mary,* how is she? —— Love to your

[*Up the right margin of page 4 and across the top margin*]

Ma & your Pa —— Good night & love to your self ——

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

Hope I shall see you when I am in "P ——"

[*Up the right margin of page 5*]

Love to Aunty* — I've gained eight pounds —

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

is not that splendid & weigh more than

[*Up the right margin of page 6*]

I ever did —

[*Up the left margin of page 7*]

Now don't say I never wrote you

[*Up the right margin of page 7*]

a letter. I did read yours at one sitting.

[*Up the left margin of page 8*]

I wonder if you will this. Perhaps Aunty

[*Up the right margin of page 8*]

would like to hear it unless Mamma has told her everything ——

[*Up the left margin of page 8*]

Love to Mary, how is she? Love to your Ma & your Pa.

[*Up the left margin of page 9*]

Why don't you tell me the name of your

[*Up the right margin of page 9*]

story?* —— are you writing another —

[*Up the left margin of page 10*]

Excuse the half sheets, but I must get rid of them

[Up the right margin of page 10]

some way. & seem to have quite a stack on hand —

[*Cross-written at the bottom of page 12*]

I've had a birthday too, & I'm older than you are & you ought to condole with me. You is nothing but an infant{.} I'm going on 40 by & by ——

[*No signature*]

Notes

1876: Though speculative, this date must be close. Information in the text indicates that it was composed soon after the early September birthdays of Gordon Walden and Jewett. Walden's father, present and vigorous, died in November 1877. Walden indicates that she is approaching her 40th birthday. Born in 1842, that birthday would arrive in 1882. Given her statement, however facetious, one would expect her to be 35 or older, so perhaps she wrote it as late as 1877. Other details in the notes below suggest a composition date as early as 1873.

Associated with this letter is an envelope, addressed to Jewett in care of her father, and

postmarked in Boston on 27 May, no year given. Though the envelope has penciled on it the same line that appears at the top of the first page, about Grace Gordon visiting the mountains, it seems unlikely that the envelope is correctly matched with the letter, which almost certainly was composed in September.

2: Penciled at the top of this page, in a different hand: "Grace visits the mountains —" A pair of lines beneath this line either underlines it or deletes the first line on the page.

Birck head: Walden seems deliberately to have separated the two syllables of Kate Birckhead's surname. Key to Correspondents.

Beth: The rest of this name is inserted in pencil by another hand: Bethlehem (in New Hampshire).

Georgie: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. March: This person has not yet been identified.

Mt. Washington: Mt. Washington is the highest peak in the White Mountains of New England. The Mount Washington Cog Railway on the western slope was the world's first cog railway, beginning operation in 1869. At the time of this letter, the railway's specialized steam engine was a relatively new invention.

the Glen side: Refers to the Glen House, a resort hotel northeast of Mt. Washington, at the end of the road the Gordon party took down the mountain.

Kitty: Possibly Walden's sister, Kate Gordon Hoffendahl. See Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden in Key to Correspondents. The children in this party remain unidentified. Kate Hoffendahl is the only one of the Gordon children known to be married at the time of this letter, and she was married in 1856. Whether she had children is not known; it seems not very likely, though not impossible, that she would have had very young children at the time of this letter.

Helen: Probably Walden's sister, Helen Gordon. See Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden in Key to Correspondents.

Crawford's ... Notch: Crawford Notch is a major pass through the White Mountains.

the House: The Sumner House in Dalton, NH, was a major resort hotel, built by lumber baron James Breckenridge Sumner (1788-1874). Presumably, at the time of this letter, his son, James Breckenridge Sumner (1843-) was the owner. However, he was not an "old gentleman" at the probable time of this letter, being a year younger than Walden. See *Descendants of William Sumner*, p. 142.

Lunenburg: Gordon Walden seems to have written "Lunnenberg," but she has cross-written this part of the page, and the transcription is uncertain.

think: Walden appears to have written "thing" rather than "think," but the transcription is uncertain.

story: That Walden mentions a new story that Jewett seems not to have named and another on the way creates uncertainty about dating the letter. In 1875, Jewett published two stories in September, "Deephaven Cronies" and "Woodchucks," both of which Walden could have seen by the time of this letter, and another in December, "Patty's Dull Christmas." In 1876, she published no stories after "Deephaven Excursions" in September. In 1877, she published no stories at all, completing her first novel *Deephaven*, which appeared in the spring, but "A Late Supper" appeared in January 1878, with others to follow in March. This makes 1875 and 1877 the more likely years for this letter, with 1877 the stronger candidate.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_021_01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Susan Hayes Ward

South Berwick

15 Sept. 1876

Dear Miss Susy

\- -

We all enjoyed your visit, only it was heart-breaking to have you go away so soon. I am going down to York tomorrow if it is fair weather, and I shall be so glad to renew my last summer's intimacy with the "Bar'l girls".*

Please give my love to Hetta and my regards to Dr. Ward and Mr. Herbert Ward.*

Yrs sincerely

Sarah

Notes

"Bar'l girls": Elizabeth Barrell (c. 1799 - November 12, 1883) and Mary Barrell (c. 1804 - June 6, 1889).

Hetta ... Dr. Ward and Mr. Herbert Ward: Richard Cary says: "Hetta Lord Hayes Ward (1842-1921), sister of Susan and William, reported on architecture, exhibitions of painting,

the applied and domestic arts for the *Independent*, as well as publishing delightful stories and verses for children." William Hayes Ward's son was Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932) an American author who married another Jewett friend, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. Key to Correspondents.

A note on this transcription indicates that the original is in the Sophia Smith Collection of the Smith College Library [7-298-9]. This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. For more information about the individual transcription, contact the Maine Women Writers Collection. Notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ellen Mason*

South Berwick

5 Oct. 1876

My dear Ellen

I [wish *blotted*] I could talk with you about this story for it would be so much better than writing — I have been very much interested in it, but I am afraid there may be troubles about getting it published in a children's magazine — I think it is very clever and bright, but I'll tell you just the difficulty: one has to make a distinction between writing for children and writing about children. The story gives one charming

[*Page 2*]

pictures of real child-life, but, I am [afraid *corrected*], not in a way which children themselves would like best. Don't you see that the story is written from a grown-person's standpoint? ^(The motif is really 'Papa's' annoyance)^ Children cannot have the amusement we do in these bright speeches and funny blunders [and *corrected*] trickeries, in short, they dont often appreciate what one might call 'other ([childrens' *so written*] [childishness *corrected* '] — they are not apt to notice at all what older persons find quaint and original and in every way delightful, and laugh at

[*Page 3*]

and remember — In writing stories for children one must try to look at life through their eyes and from their standpoint and try hard to remember one's own old thoughts and impression of things — else one preaches '[over *corrected*] the heads' of the hearers — This story is pleasant reading for you and me and yet, cant you see that there is much in it which a little girl would lose entirely. 'Papa's' disgust at hearing so much of Mr. Jones [is *corrected*] very funny and yet most children would find

[*Page 4*]

him as fascinating as Bessie did and think Papa unappreciative and cross — And I am afraid the writer is getting on dangerous ground where [that *corrected*] pretty young lady with the Tyrolese hat is introduced, and ['Papa' *corrected*] is evidently much edified — for that will not do in such a story as this: it is really a bit which would be in place in a story for another sort of magazine than St. Nicholas — I wish you could tell me the whole plan of the story. I could tell much better whether it would do for St. Nicholas{.}

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 1*]

It was [not *possibly deleted*] those sketches in the Excursions I asked you about — which you like best Do you know? — the funeral, Mrs. Bonny or Miss Chauncey?*

Notes

Mason: Almost certainly, this letter is addressed to Ellen Mason. Key to Correspondents.

As the Houghton catalog information below indicates, this is among a number of Jewett letters for whom the recipient has been thought to be American author, Mary Ellen Chase (1887-1973), who, according to Chase's introduction to *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (Norton), first met Jewett in 1900. See Chase in Key to Correspondents.

Chauncey: This postscript is confusing enough that I am not sure how to render it. Jewett refers to three parts of "Deephaven Excursions," published in the September 1876 *Atlantic*.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Box: 5 Identifier: MS Am 1743, (250), Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett. Chase, Ellen, recipient. 3 letters; 1876 & [n.d.], 1876.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

8 October 1876

Dear Anna

I have been wishing to answer your letter; but (to make my excuse at length) when it came we had some people staying here and I went in a few days to stay at the seashore taking one of my friends with me, and after I came home and she went away, I spent Sunday in quietness and

repose and started on Monday morning for Philadelphia with my Father, who seemed to have such a pathetic desire that I should keep him company that I could not refuse though I was

[*Page 2*]

not enthusiastic about it. ^It is needless to say I wished to go with him in spite of not caring for more of the Centennial!*^ However I had a charming visit, much pleasanter than that of last summer — I enjoyed seeing the Centennial again, and also of seeing my friends. I have two beloved cousins Alex and Ned* ~~and~~ (they make me wish for brothers more than anyone else I know!) and [I *corrected*] was driving with them and boating up the Schuylkill and always having some good time or other — We took the new way of going on to Phila — as we went by steamer from Portland to N. Y. and had a grand storm, which I am glad to have experienced though it was not so pleasant at the time — I could hardly keep in my berth and the chairs in

[*Page 3*]

the cabin banged against stateroom doors, first one side and then the other — and some barrels got loose on deck and bumped about industriously — However I went fast asleep after a while and after we got around Cape Cod we had better weather{.} It was the best thing of all to see the crowd of schooners come out of Vineyard Haven when the sun [shone *written over* came *?*] out in the morning after the storm —. There were hundreds of them, and all that day we were sailing along over the pleasantest sea catching glimpses of New Bedford & Newport and the towns along shore and finally got into N. Y. early next day — and I was sorry the voyage

[*Page 4*]

was over with.

The night ^after^ I went away Ella* went to [Conway *corrected*] to meet her father and drive home with him — She meant to have spent the day with me but some friends came to see her & she had to take a later train. So it all happened right as I had to leave in the morning myself for Portland & {I} could not have seen her but a few minutes — Carrie* saw her ^at the train^ and said she looked so bright and pretty. I believe she is to go to Phila soon but I hope to see her on my way to Concord this week — I am dreadfully disappointed not to have had a visit from her this summer.

I am delighted with what you

[*Page 5*]

2

said of Daniel Deronda* — and yet you will laugh at me when I tell you I have never read the book except a few pages here and there. Of course I know more or less about it, since everyone talks so much about it — but at first I waited until it should be finished and lately I have waited again wishing to be quiet and to feel exactly 'like it' —- I never expect however to like any book of G. Eliot's so much as I do Adam Bede and I know this will have the same defect to me that Middlemarch has — that of seeming unsatisfactory and unfinished. And there is always something lacking in George Eliot's books because however

[*Page 6*]

high her standards of morality and however grand her ideas of life one misses the least suggestion of one having a true and real friendship with God, and ^that^ our success must depend upon this after all — Perhaps you say this is inferred — many people do — but it does not seem to me so — and I have the same feeling in reading Middlemarch that I do in reading — Antigone perhaps; or any of those tragedies of Sophocles* — it is fate, it is hopelessness, we are working helplessly against resistless and unchangeable forces, or if we are lucky enough to hit upon some line of action which

[*Page 7*]

leads us to apparent success, then we are none the wiser and none the surer — These books are grand books and I do not see how anyone can help learning a great deal from them and being lifted up out ^of^ the ruts and the petty ways of living into which we get so easily — Yet I am sure we learn more what to avoid than we do what to copy — even when we are expected to <u>copy</u> oftenest. It is all true, what you say of the characters working out the problem of life each after his own fashion — but do not you think there is only one way in which this becomes possible for us? I have no [wish *corrected*] to put a Sunday-school strain

[*Page 8*]

of conversation into such books as these, but though <u>we</u> may supply the missing thoughts from our own experiences and see how, and how only our lives may grow grand and useful, don't you see that many [people *corrected*] must read Daniel Deronda without a knowledge of this kind, and that it is almost a heathen book after all? Perhaps you are thinking that I try to speak with great authority [after *corrected*] my confessing that I have not read the book — but I

[suppose *corrected*] that I know almost as much about it as I shall after I have read it in course — Did you ever happen to see a book by Principal Shairp called Studies in Poetry and

[*Page 9*]

3

Philosophy?* There is an essay at the end called "The Moral Motive Power" which has always seemed to me wonderfully good. Mr. Shairp reviews the different ways men have followed [and *corrected*] shows plainly at the end that nothing but our own Christian religion gives the help or is the 'motive power' toward a perfect life — This is no very new idea but the essay helps one to understand some puzzles, and to give one a great deal of confidence — I think that you are finding more and more, as I am thankful that I can say I am, that it is only this friendship with Christ and our following him and keeping

[*Page 10*]

close to Him which is the real thing and the true life. Things are not sent to us bad or good. God plans the event and we are to choose whether it helps or hinders us — sometimes by conscious choice but oftenest [unconsciously *corrected*] and according to our education — I am sure this belief must underlie every thing — we are in the world for our spiritual education and every thing is planned for that isn't it? — and success is not a thing of chance but a thing of choice with us — There is something of Fenelon's* which I must have quoted to you since it is my [great *corrected*] delight —

[*Page 11*]

"God never makes us feel our weakness except to lead us to seek strength from him" —* George Eliot [may *corrected*] write grand books and may go never so deep in her knowledge of human nature and of these problems of life but no book will ever seem perfect or finished, as no life will, that does not recognize the great truth of all [truths *corrected*] — It is having Christ in us which is the hope of glory after all; one must always come back to this. ———-

I have written longer than I intended but I do not apologize to you — and I find it very pleasant to talk with you even in a letter — which is

[*Page 12*]

so much less pleasant than having a friend face to face with me — I hope we shall meet this [winter *corrected*]. I certainly shall hope to see you if you are in Boston late in the fall — I am going to Concord on Tuesday and shall probably be in town a day or two after my week's visit there is ended. I am a scalliwag to go away again at all but this is a visit which I must make and wish to make to an old friend who has already let me put it off four or five times. I am in torment whenever I think of my neglected work, but I mean to make up for lost time when I [once *corrected*] begin — I believe you asked me about Miss Sally Chauncey:* the story is true* and I really made

[*Up the left margin of and across the top of page 9*]

the call and will tell you more if you care to know.* Will you think it displays conceit if I tell you that one of the big English reviews gave me a stunning compliment* for the Excursions. I was nearly taken off my feet!

[*Up the left margin of page 10*]

Do write me soon for I enjoy your letters so much

[*Up the left margin of page 11*]

and I am getting dreadfully fond of you. Mary* is away

[*Up the left margin of page 12*]

or she would send you an equally affectionate message —

Yours Sincerely

S.O.J.

Notes

the Centennial: Jewett attended the Centennial International Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA., during the summer and now again with her father.

Alex and Ned: Hollis says that these are the Orne brothers, from the large family of cousins with whom the Jewetts stayed when in Philadelphia.

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Carrie: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Daniel Deronda: Wikipedia says: Mary Ann Evans (1819-1880) "known by her pen name George Eliot, was an English novelist, poet, journalist, translator and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She is the author of seven novels, including *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), *Felix Holt, the Radical* (1866), *Middlemarch* (1871–72), and *Daniel Deronda* (1876), most of which are set in provincial England and known for their realism and psychological insight."

Antigone ... Sophocles: Wikipedia says: "Sophocles ... is one of three ancient Greek tragedians whose plays have survived. His first plays were written later than those of Aeschylus, and earlier than or contemporary with those of Euripides. Sophocles wrote 120 plays during the course of his life, but only seven have survived in a complete form," including *Antigone*, which is one of a group of plays concerning the family of Oedipus.

Principal Shairp: Scottish author and critic. John Campbell Shairp (1819-1885). Wikipedia. Hollis says "His important literary criticism is collected in various volumes; the one that Sarah speaks of here was published in Edinburgh in 1868 and re-published here in 1872. "The Moral Motive Power" is the American title given to the concluding essay."

Fenelon's ... "God never makes us feel our weakness except to lead us to seek strength from him": It seems likely that Jewett has been reading François de Salignac de la Mothe Fénelon (1651-1715), *Spiritual Letters: Letters to Women*, a text in which this idea appears repeatedly, though this exact quotation seems not to be present. It *does* appear in *Selections from the Writings of Fenelon: With a Memoir of His Life* (1859), p. 154. Jewett's quotation, however, is not exactly the same as in this translation: "God never makes us feel our weakness but that we may be led to seek strength from him."

Sally Chauncey: She is a character in "Deephaven Excursions," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (38:277-290), September 1876. Paula Blanchard points out that a number of Jewett's characters in *Deephaven* were based on people she knew in and around South Berwick. Miss Chauncey is based upon Sally Cutts of Kittery, ME. See *Sarah Orne Jewett* (1994), p. 86.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

compliment: While this is not certain, Jewett may refer to *Notes and Queries* (London) 6 (14 October 1876), p. 377, where "C. J." writes:

At the close of this communication a quotation may appropriately be made from the September number of the *Atlantic Monthly*. In "Deephaven Excursions" occurs a lone funeral by the sea; and one of the neighbours of the dead man, present at the ceremony, says : —

> "He faded right out, and didn't know anything the last time I see him; and he died Sunday mornin', when the tide began to ebb."

To have been noticed at all in this British publication so early in her career may have seemed "stunning" to Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes," *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Caroline Jewett Eastman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Friday morning.

[*13 October 1876*]*

Dear Pfby*

Your letter came last night and the family are glad you are having such a nice time.

Grandpa* came down the day you went away I believe. He walked to the depot in Exeter and then from Salmon Falls over here and is as bright as can be for he didn't come

[*Page 2*]

till the day after you went.

He and father tried poison on frogs yesterday with success. Mr. Tucker* got the frogs for them.

I washed and brought the [iris *?*] in the other day and got a horrid cold. Ned and I went to Dover yesterday morning. I got one of those collars and cuffs bound with red, and when I went out by the stores in the afternoon found them in nearly every window in town! Mary* is

[*Page 3*]

coming home tonight I suppose, so she wrote the other day. [Lucia *?*] and Mr. [Browne *?*]* made a long call here last night, and Annie Barker* was in yesterday afternoon but I didn't see her.

I am glad you got your trunk all right, but am sorry I didn't know you wanted your seal* back in time to put it in.

Mama sends love, and

[*Page 4*]

wants you to wrap yourself up well when you go to ride.

Did you know Mrs. [Tuck *?*]* in Exeter is dead?

This letter came for you from the "Barrell girls"* yesterday and poor Pa felt he must see the contents so made me open it. I told him you wouldn't like it.

Isn't it just the loveliest letter and the quaintest you ever read. [*so punctuated*] When you write anything more, do send it

[*Cross-written at the top of page 1*]

to them. I will send the envelope for I think it is so funny when they put the 'of' in between care & doctor.

Ever so much love

from Carrie.

Notes

13 October 1876: The Columbia identification page indicates that the envelope was cancelled on 13 October. As the notes below show, Carrie Jewett probably refers to the death of Mrs. Catherine Tuck on 10 October 1876.

Pfby: Caroline Jewett uses this address in at least two letters. Other family members sometime address her as Piffy. What it means has not yet been determined.

Grandpa: Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

[*Lucia ?*] *and Mr.* [*Browne ?*]: The transcription is uncertain, and these people have not been identified. Lucia may be Lucia Nason, who is mentioned in a letter to Sarah Orne Jewett of 10 May 1900.

Annie Barker: Annie Barker was a South Berwick neighbor about whom rather little is known. In Mary Rice Jewett's 1892 letters to her sister while Sarah Orne Jewett was traveling in Europe, she reported regularly about Caroline March Barker (1833- 16 April 1892). According to Find a Grave, buried in the same cemetery in Rochester, NH, with Caroline Barker, is her first cousin, Anna Simpson Barker (1834-1921). It seems likely that she is the Annie Barker of this letter, then residing in South Berwick.

your seal: This may refer to a seal-skin coat.

Mr. Tucker: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Ned: Caroline Jewett married Edwin (Ned) Eastman in October 1878.

Mrs. Tuck in Exeter: This probably is Catherine P. Townsend Tuck (1815- 10 October 1876), the second wife of Amos Tuck (1810-1879), a prominent political activist and a founder of the New Hampshire Republican Party. She was remembered as a woman of culture, active in her community.

"Barrell girls": Elizabeth Barrell (c. 1799 - November 12, 1883) and Mary Barrell (c. 1804 - June 6, 1889).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Caroline Jewett Eastman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Monday morning.

[*16 October 1876*]*

Dear Pfby*

I suppose you will expect to hear from me, but there is nothing to tell.

It was awfully cold Friday. Ned* started the morning at eight-oclock. Cousin Elisha* came home last Friday and Sue and her mother start today as Cousin Elisha had to stay at home to keep house.

[*Page 2*]

A freight train ran off the track down on the Conway track by the Barkers.*

And half the town was down seeing them fixed again. No one was hurt as they saw the switch was wrong, so jumped off. I was in Abby [Colunds *?*]* to tea Saturday and had a real good time.

Judge Doe* & Mr [*deleted letters*] [*unrecognized name*] called here last Friday.

Grandpa* went home Saturday. He and Papa had great times

[*Page 3*]

trying poison on frogs, and John* and I just after the frogs! When you get my stockings perhaps you can get one pair with white and the other with yellow clocks on them. But I don't mean for you to hunt all round, only if you happen to see them, and please don't [*unrecognized word*] [all out doors *?*] for them. I have been all the morning thinking you must be upstairs and wondered

[*Page 4*]

if it wasn't time for you to come down. Mary* says she is going to write you very soon. She seems to have had a real nice time in Concord, and looks so much better. I am sorry there isn't anything more interesting to tell you.

Ever so much love from

Carrie.

Notes

16 October 1876: The Columbia identification page indicates that the envelope was cancelled on 16 October. This and Carrie Jewett's letter of 13 October seem closely associated and, almost certainly, both were composed in October 1876.

Pfby: Caroline Jewett uses this address in at least two letters. Other family members sometime address her as Piffy. What it means has not yet been determined.

Ned: Caroline Jewett married Edwin (Ned) Eastman in October 1878.

Cousin Elisha: Elisha Hanson Jewett (1816-1883), who had married Sarah Orne Jewett (1820-1864). They were the parents of another Sarah Orne Jewett, who died in infancy, and of Susan Jameson Jewett (1857-1954), who lived unmarried in South Berwick, ME.

the Barkers: Annie Barker was a South Berwick neighbor about whom rather little is known. In Mary Rice Jewett's 1892 letters to her sister while Sarah Orne Jewett was traveling in Europe, she reported regularly about Caroline March Barker (1833- 16 April 1892). According to Find a Grave, buried in the same cemetery in Rochester, NH, with Caroline Barker, is her first cousin, Anna Simpson Barker (1834-1921). It seems likely that she is the Annie Barker of this letter, then residing in South Berwick.

Abby [*Colunds ?*]: The transcription is uncertain, and this person has not been identified.

Judge Doe: Richard Cary says: "The Honorable Charles Doe (1830-1896), appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire at 29, retained his rustic clothes and manners during sessions. A raconteur of uncommon facility, he punctuated his stories with earth-born phrases and laconic flashes of philosophic insight. Behind his rugged humors lay a vast kindliness and tolerance.

"His wife, Edith Haven Doe (1840-1922), formerly of Portsmouth, was the daughter of Mr. George Wallis Haven, and the stepsister of Georgia Halliburton. Of superior intelligence and engaging personality, she was renowned as a helpmeet and hostess. The Doe home at Rollinsford NH, a frequent anchorage for the Jewett sisters, was about a mile from their own."

Grandpa: Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

25 Oct. 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons

I went to see Mr. Osgood and Mr. Niles* and found them both very kind. I had a long talk with them both and they both were ready to take the sketches if I chose to get them ready — I think your note and Mr. Howells's* did the business and it was plain to see that they wondered why they never had heard of such a shining light before! I am very much puzzled to decide between the two — For some reasons I incline toward Mr. Osgood but there are equally strong arguments

[*Page 2*]

for going to Roberts Bros ——They both said they would give ten per cent on the copy: after the expenses had been paid — Mr. Osgood said; and Mr. Niles ^said^ after the first edition, <u>but</u> if the book were sure of a sale they sometimes gave new writers the percentage from the first, as they did the old writers — Mr. Osgood talked rather more fully than Mr. Niles did with me — and seemed to take a great interest in the thing — though I told him I was not going to decide at all ^at present^ — and that I was going to see Roberts —

[*Page 3*]

He told me I was quite right in getting settled to my mind — and that Roberts would be as safe as anyone could be — I am to write him in a week or two — and in the meantime Mr. Niles is to look over the sketches and tell me what he thinks — He said something about it being safer usually to begin with a <u>new</u> book, which I know very well. Still my point is to publish the Deephaven book and I mean to make it longer and better than it is now — I suppose in a business way Roberts is

[*Page 4*]

more flourishing and more go-ahead. I have the greatest confidence in your opinion of him but I only wish you and Mr. Howells had settled upon the same publisher — Mr. Howells has always spoken of Mr. Osgood and it is natural that he should advise me to go to him since they are good friends and Mr. Howells books have been so successful and so well managed — I like the

company at Mr. Osgoods, but one must not sacrifice too much to that — and certainly the Roberts have never published any but the nicest books — and I am sure that which ever I take I

[*Page 5*]

shall be in good hands — and cannot regret much. You see I am more undecided than ever! —

The great point is whether Osgood is going down and Roberts going up and whether Mr. Niles is so sure and permanent a person in his firm as Mr. Osgood in his — If Mr. Niles should go away — the Roberts's would be a very different firm — I could not write you before for I stopped on the way and did not get home until yesterday{.} My father is away until tomorrow and I can't talk with him.

[*Page 6*]

It is not much in his line at any rate! Do you think Mr. Howells [*mark*] would mind my not taking his advice? He has been so very kind to me, you know — and I should be sorry to do anything wrong.

— I don't believe you will find what I say at all satisfactory{.} I seem to be waiting for something to turn up! Perhaps Mr. Roberts or rather Mr. Niles will not want the sketches after all when he reads them over and thinks about it — I wish I could have stayed longer the other day — but I am glad to have

[*Page 7*]

seen you for even that time — It was dark as a pocket when I got back to Jamaica Plain — and it was lucky I did not stay longer for I was staying with a most punctual family — and it would have been mortifying if I had been late to dinner you know! —

Good-bye

Yours always

Sarah —

Notes

Mr. Osgood and Mr. Niles: *Wikipedia* says: "James R. Osgood (1836-1892) was an American publisher probably best known for his partnership with Mark Twain and his involvement with the publishing company that would become Houghton Mifflin." *Wikipedia* also says: "Roberts Brothers (1857-1898) were bookbinders and publishers in 19th-century Boston, Massachusetts. Established in 1857 by Austin J. Roberts, John F. Roberts, and Lewis A. Roberts, the firm began publishing around the early 1860s." *Wikipedia* reports that Thomas Niles joined the firm in 1863 and eventually became a partner. See Blanchard's account of Jewett's dealings with publishers for *Deephaven* (80-81). Jewett finally chose Osgood to publish her first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett

5 Walnut St. Boston

October 28th 1876

Will you forgive me if I write to you on half sheets Dear Sarah? as I seem to have more of these than of whole —

The money arrived safely. Only think how many dollars I might get out of you, after your promise, if I only cared to say it did not arrive — We were so sorry to miss your Mother's & Father's call. George* was at home & would have insisted upon their coming in had he known it was they. But Katy unfortunately did not go to the door — our new cook did — & of course she did not know — Mama & I started out the next [mning *so written*] to hunt them up, but in vain we drove first to the Revere* thinking your Father might have gone there as you liked it so much when you were here last, then to the Tremont & then to [Perkin's *?*], but no Dr. & Mrs. Jewett were to be found. It was a shame we should have missed them so — How did they enjoy the [*deleted word*] "Shaughraun —" *?**

[*Page 2*]

Is it spelled rightly? —

I went with Papa before I went to Philda.* I never enjoyed anything so in my life! —

We missed you & Helen* very much — have had two letters from Helen.

My cough is worse than [*unrecognized word*] & I am in despair.

You will have to take Roberts* after all — poor Sary O' — I pity you.

Marie* & I went to see the [fleas *?*]* the other day — I was charmed with them & their old man —

Write to me soon.

"My love to Mary"—*

Grace —

Do not fail to write on your final decision.

[*Added at right angle to above text, bottom right of page 2*]

I have a stack of these dreadful envelopes and paper to match, so I shall put these half sheets into one —

Excuse the incongruity.

Notes

George ... Katy: George is likely to be Gordon's older brother. Key to Correspondents. Katy probably is a domestic employee.

Philda: The Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, PA, was held from 10 May until 10 November 1876. Jewett attended in June-July, and reported the "heat was awful." See Jewett's story, "The Flight of Betsey Lane," in *A Native of Winby*.

Revere ... the Tremont ... Perkin's: The first two are well-known Boston hotels: Revere House and The Tremont House. The transcription of "Perkin's," however, is uncertain, and as yet nothing has been learned about such a hotel or boarding house in 19th-century Boston.

"*Shaughraun* —" This transcription is uncertain. However The Shaughraun (1874) is a play by Irish-American playwright Dion Boucicault (c. 1820 - 1890). According to *The History of the Boston Theatre 1854-1901*, Boucicault acted in a Boston production during the month of October 1876 (p. 234).

Helen: Which of Jewett's acquaintances this Helen is remains unknown.

Roberts: As Gordon is speaking of coughs, suggesting that Jewett has reported a troublesome cough of her own, she may refer to a popular 19th-century remedy, "Dr. Roberts Cough Syrup."

Marie: This person has not yet been identified.

fleas ... old man: This transcription is uncertain. Is Gordon saying that she attended a flea circus? Such performances, according to Wikipedia, began as early as the 16th century and continue into the 21st. Whether there was a flea circus in Boston in 1876 remains unknown.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

—·—

THE RIVERSIDE PRESS,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

[*End letterhead.*
Date appears to right of "Cambridge, Mass."]

Nov. 1, 1876

Dear Miss Jewett:

I'm very sorry, but they wont either of them quite do. Wont you try something also for our musicians?* The [barcarole *?*] sings, but it hasn't somehow strong enough [statements *corrected*] in it for a successful song — it's too [purely *?*] suggestive.

Mrs. Howells is perfectly fascinated with your gift,

[*Page 2*]

and wonders how you had the heroism to give such an exquisite thing away. [Elinor *?*]* is neuralgic [*unrecognized word*] she bids me say that [*deleted word*] she hopes soon to be well ^enough^ to write and thank you as you should be thanked.

— You have been too successful with your book.* If Osgood said he would take ~~them~~ ^it^ — or thought he would — you ought (oughtn't you?) to have had his decision before going to Mr. Niles. Suppose they should both accept the book? However, I'm de

[*Page 3, text at right angle to other pages*]

lighted at your good fortune with this, and I should never think less of the sketches if [twenty *?*] publishers brought them out.

Mrs. Howells sends her love, and wants to say that the [next time *?*] you dine with us{—} we will have [three *?*] small [mackerel *?*]. Could the mystic number of [those *?*] fish have ^had^ anything ^[serious *?*]^ to do with your two publishers, I wonder.

Yours sincerely

W. D. Howells.

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

Pilla now wishes to know if Tilden* can go to heaven?

Notes

musicians: It seems likely that Jewett has submitted a pair of poems to be considered for the *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett's next published poem to deal with music was "Two Musicians," in *The American* (5 February 1881). In *Atlantic*, Jewett had published "Together" in May 1875. Her next poem in *Atlantic* was "Flowers in the Dark" (March 1880).

The barcarole probably was Jewett's "The Boat Song." John Austin Parker, "Sarah Orne Jewett's 'Boat Song,'" *American Literature* 23 (1951), according to Nagel and Nagel's *Sarah Orne Jewett: A Reference Guide*, writes: "Among the uncataloged materials of the Library of Congress is a copy of 'Boat Song,' words by Miss Sarah O. Jewett. Music by Richd. Hoffman. New York: G. Schirmer, c. 1879."

Elinor: Howells's wife, Elinor Mead. At the end of the letter, he mentions his daughter, Mildred / Pilla.

book: Jewett submitted *Deephaven* (1877), her first book, to two publishers simultaneously. Her letters to Theophilus Parsons, Howells and others from autumn 1876 explain this error. For James R. Osgood (1836-1892), Key to Correspondents. Thomas Niles represented Roberts Brothers.

See also Paula Blanchard's account of Jewett's dealings with publishers for *Deephaven* in *Sarah Orne Jewett* (80-81).

Tilden: Presumably, Howells's daughter, Pilla, (Key to Correspondents) refers to the U.S. presidential election of 1876, when Democrat Samuel Jones Tilden (1814-1886) became the first candidate to win a majority of the popular vote and still lose the election. The bargain that gave the presidency to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, brought an end to Reconstruction, opening the way for the development of legal racial segregation and nearly a century of American apartheid.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105). New transcription and notes. Another transcription appears in *Life in Letters of William Dean Howells*, edited by Mildred Howells. New York: Doubleday, 1928.

James Lyman Whitney* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Concord, Mass.

Nov^{r}, 1876

My dear Miss Jewett

I shall be very glad if I can be of any service to you in deciding in regard to your publisher. Most likely when you have read what I shall write you will be as much puzzled as ever. In your talk with the two probably you did not get so far as to settle on what the amount to come to you would be, and I go on the supposition that there is a certain fixed sum ^(per copy?)^* always paid. That matter you have talked with Mr. Howells* about, or intend so doing. Supposing the offer of both the same, you would want to take into consideration several things: 1. what publisher would be likely to reach the largest public,

[*Page 2*]

2. which would take the most interest in the book to advertise it and "push" it, as the phrase is. 3. who is the most responsible financially, so that you will have no fear of losing what should justly come to you. I have talked with several persons on these points, and shall ask others as I meet them. I do not learn that there is much to choose between the two. The first point might perhaps be decided in favor of Osgood,* his firm having great prestige from its past business. You speak as if some thought that popularity less now than it has been. That may be, as the firm has

[*Page 3*]

taken up outside things as heliotyping, publishing art & illustrated papers, etc. It may be that it is from their having sold the plates and copyright of so many of their books within a year or so. It is true they have a smaller list. Much of what was sold was rather dead stock ^, however,^ and much of it works that other publishers also published in this country, such as [Scott *?*], Dickens, &c. But they have kept most of the choice books by the best authors, Longfellow, Lowell, Emerson, Holmes, etc. into whose circle it would be pleasant

[*Page 4*]

to enter. I should think that Osgood in that way would be better, yet I am not sure. He must have business connections with most of the booksellers of the country. Roberts stands well in the trade; with some booksellers he is more popular than Osgood who has been rather more independent in the past having made his position which Roberts [had *or* has] not done. As to the second point, I have been told that Roberts looks after his books perhaps more

carefully in advertising them and keeping them alive. That is [the opinion *written over something*] of one person who has had considerable to do with both firms. On the other hand Miss Preston* has spoken with considerable severity (for her that is) of Roberts's treatment of her books. I would talk with her and get her opinion.

[*Page 5*]

2

She is to publish a book soon which I suppose Osgood will publish, yet I am not sure of that.

In regard to the third point I have not yet been able to make inquiries of the persons who would know. A year or more ago when there were heavy failures in the book trade Osgood lost a great deal and was crippled. He sold the Atlantic Monthly for a good sum and $100.000 worth of [*unrecognized word*] plates & stock and I have supposed he was strong again. I should think his heliotyping business must pay well as it is a patented thing. He has some 80 men at work at this. ^I presume that Roberts is stronger financially.^

You will talk with Mr Howells as to your best arrangements with the publishers, for your own security.

[*Page 6*]

This experience would be of great value to you.

I think that many of the complaints of [authors *corrected*] against publishers are unreasonable and they are a much better set of folks than they are generally considered. It costs a great deal to start a book, printing, stereotyping, binding, advertising, editors' [offices *?*], &c, and unless a book meets with a good circulation there can be but little to come back to the author. After the [sale *written over something*] reaches 1000 or so, those expenses are paid and the rest is clear profits.

Now this doesn't help you much to decide. It may put you in the way of asking questions of your other friends that will help more. I should think that your book would do well enough with either Osgood or Roberts.

[*Page 7*]

I wonder whether you mean to put anything else in it besides the Deephaven articles.

This letter fairly bristles with business as you would wish to have it and but little room is left to tell you what we are doing. But [this Mrs *?*] Bartlett* tells you of in her letters. Ned & I have dragged our boats up on land for the winter and after it came these golden days when we would fain pull them back again. But pull them back we will when May comes and you perhaps have come to Concord again to see how we look in the summer time. If I should tell you that I had not been in my boat since July 4 you would look with contempt upon me, I am sure. Only there have been good reasons for it this

[*Page 8*]

year.

I have been writing while six young folks down stairs have been playing charades. They have finished and have gone to the singing club at Mifs Wheeldon's.* I have half a mind to follow them.

We are quite enthusiastic [politically *?*] as to Hoar vs Butler* and are to have a meeting Saturday night, which we mean to have a large one. I am a delegate to the convention that meets here on Friday. Ned & his wife poke fun at me and think it the funniest thing going. Why shouldn't I, I want to know?

Your friend

JL Whitney

I have a funny way of getting to sleep sometimes. I try to think of all the friends I happen to have and I always go to work at it geographically ^beginning at New England,^ saying "Maine [*deleted mark*] — well I haven't any friends in Maine," but now I have just written "Your friend" so I shall have to tally one next time! Did you ever think to yourself before as a soporific?

[*Up the right margin of age 8*]

Be pleased in future to regard yourself in that light!

Notes

Whitney: James Lyman Whitney (1835-1900). At the time he wrote this letter, he was still involved in the bookselling business. It seems likely that Jewett was connected with him by her acquaintance with Edward Jarvis Bartlett.

The following is edited from a sketch that appears in Family: Whitney, Josiah Dwight (1786-1869) - WRG

Son of Josiah Dwight and Clarissa (James) Whitney, James Lyman Whitney, b. 28 Nov 1835, Northampton, MA; d. 25 Sep 1900, Cambridge, MA,...; unmarried. He graduated at Yale college in 1856, where he remained from 1856 to 1857 as Berkeley scholar of the house. While in college he was librarian of the Brothers in Unity library. From 1858 to 1868 he was a bookseller in Springfield, MA, in which business he retained an interest until 1887. In 1868 he

was an assistant librarian of the Cincinnati public library. In 1869 he entered the service of the Boston public library, where he still remains. He is in charge of the catalogue department of the library, and is the editor of many of the catalogues and other publications of the library. Mr. Whitney was chairman of the school committee of Concord, MA, from 1879 to 1887; has been secretary of the library committee of the free public library of Concord; chairman of the book committee of the Bostonian society, and treasurer of the American library association and chairman of its finance committee. He is appreciatively known for his valuable work in the library circles of the country.

per copy: This parenthetical insertion seems to have been written over perhaps the same words, but in darker ink. It is not perfectly clear who added this and when.

Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Osgood: James R. Osgood. Key to Correspondents. Roberts Brothers (1857–1898) were bookbinders and publishers in 19th-century Boston. See Paula Blanchard's account of Jewett's dealings with publishers for *Deephaven* (80-81). Jewett finally chose Osgood to publish her first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents. By 1879, Preston had not changed her American publisher.

Mrs. Bartlett: See Edward Jarvis Bartlett in Key to Correspondents. He was married to Sarah Flagg French, sister of Jewett's childhood friend, the American sculptor Daniel Chester French.

Mifs Wheeldon's: The Concord Choral Club flourished during the 19th century, regularly performing at public ceremonies. The transcription of "Wheeldon" is uncertain, and she remains unidentified.

Hoar vs Butler: Ebenezer R. Hoar (1816-1895) was an American lawyer and politician from Massachusetts. Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893) also was a Massachusetts politician and lawyer. Their political rivalry was intense during the 1870s. Butler, a Democrat turned Republican, a supporter of woman suffrage and a "colorful character," angered the more conservative Republican Party leadership, which included Hoar.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 042

William G. Abbott* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Phil[a] Nov[r] 18[th] 76

Dear Miss Jewett

I have called on personal friends of mine engaged here in the publishing business and submit you below what I have gleaned from their remarks as to the various merits etc. of the two concerns you inquired about.

Messrs Osgood & Co would no doubt do the book* full justice but it is somewhat out of their line.

The Messrs Roberts Bros. do not stand as to credit so high as Messrs Osgoods [do *?*].

As regards introducing a work such as yours Mess. R. Bros. would be far preferable they having made a speciality and at the same time

[*Page 2*]

a decided success of such literature.

I might go into greater details as to what else I learn but so far as I can advise you from pure hearsay "R. Bros" are without doubt the best firm for you and so trust this information with what you already know may be of some assistance in deciding you on such a matter.

My journey home was made without anything of particular interest taking place. One portion of my trip will be looked back upon with a great deal of pleasure and that is my visit to your house.

Can I again thank you for your hospitality and I sincerely hope to reciprocate the kindness

[*Page 3*]

extended me when you again come south.

Lizzie I know would wish you many kind messages were she aware of my writing today and with my respects to your family I am etc.

Yours sincerely

W. G. Abbott

Notes

Abbott: Almost certainly this letter is from William G. Abbott of Philadelphia, who married Elizabeth B. Orne. Their daughter, Elizabeth Abbott, was born and died in 1872. They appear in the 1905 Philadelphia Social Register with Caroline M., William G. Jr., and Edward Abbott.

See Elizabeth B. Orne to Jewett of 24 July 1876.

the book: Jewett has asked Abbott for advice about choosing one of the two publishers interested in her first book, *Deephaven* (1877).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 1, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

—·—

THE RIVERSIDE PRESS,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

[*End letterhead*
Date appears to the right of "Cambridge, Mass."]

Nov. 20, 1876.

Dear Miss Jewett:

You analyze your two publishers with a skill worthy of George Eliot,* and if I were you I should go to Osgood, but I have no right to have any wish in the matter and I explicitly refuse to influence your decision. They are both excellent houses.

I've not yet read

[*Page 2*]

your MS, but you'll believe it isn't from want of interest in it. — Please ask your friend to send me her friend's play, but don't you commit me even to kindness. Justice with her eyes open and her fists shut is the [*unrecognized word*] duty of this [office *corrected*].

— Pilla* has me send a book mark which she says she promised Miss Jewett and wh. she worked today with her own funny little fingers.

Yours truly

W. D. Howells.

A letter from Miss Howells included.

Notes

George Eliot: British novelist, Mary Ann Evans (1819-1880).

Pilla: Howells's daughter. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

21 Nov. 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons

I would have written you before if I could — I know you will believe me when I tell you that.

I have decided to go to Mr. Osgood with 'Deephaven Cronies' (I hope you will like that title?)* for it seemed best to do so after I had thought of it, until I was tired and had tried to find

[*Page 2*]

out everything I possibly could about both firms — I found that Mr. Osgood's standing was as high ^as a publisher^ and that the firm financially was all right, and that there was nothing to fear. Several people told me as you did that Mr. Niles* was best in helping a book along, and that I should probably be surer of the book's becoming popular, if I let him have it —

But I finally have come to look at it in this way — The

[*Page 3*]

book will not be a <u>very</u> popular book <u>anyway</u>, and it must be decently successful if either firm has the management of it for they both have the best facilities for publishing — Mr. Howells* was the cause of its being published at all — and he has always inclined toward his friend Mr. Osgood. I think it is right and kind for me to do what will please him most and since I have found that out beyond a question, and I know he has no fears of my being unlucky. I think I shall carry out the old plan. I do not think Mr. Howells wishes me to be so much influenced

[*Page 4*]

by his preference — and I know he wishes me to decide for myself without regard to him, but that doesn't alter the case, and so I shall trust the book to Mr. Osgood and my own 'good luck' — The Atlantic is after all the mainsail of my craft, and Mr. Howells has always been the kindest of friends to me and it seems the best way to decide as I have done — I do not believe I am running any risk either. I found Mr. Osgood very pleasant and kind that day I saw him and I think it is safe to trust Mr. Howells opinion of him as a publisher — though I realize

[*Page 5*]

[*deletion*] the truth of what you have told me about Mr. Niles — I have such confidence in your opinion of such things that it has been very hard to go against it — Still you said in your last letter that you rather inclined toward Mr. Osgood, and that was a great encouragement — I think the sorrow of saying no to Mr. Niles takes away a great deal from my pleasure in saying yes to Mr. Osgood! I have had the kindest letters from them both —

[*Page 6*]

I hope your eyes are well again — I was so sorry to find they were troubling you — I cannot write more now as I fear I am already late for the mail — I will tell you just as soon as I can whatever else there is to tell and what my plan is for the book — Please don't tell Mr. Howells that I was guided so much by him — though it was silly in me to think I need caution you! Yours with much love

Sarah —

Notes

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

The final title of Jewett's first novel was *Deephaven* (1877).

Mr. Niles: Wikipedia says: "Roberts Brothers (1857–1898) were bookbinders and publishers in 19th-century Boston, Massachusetts. Established in 1857 by Austin J. Roberts, John F. Roberts, and Lewis A. Roberts, the firm began publishing around the early 1860s." Thomas Niles joined the firm in 1863 and eventually became a partner. See Blanchard's account of Jewett's dealings with publishers for *Deephaven* (80-81).

Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

25 Nov. 1876

Dear Anna

I go on Arthur Helps* principle — that it is (or ought to be) needless for friends to make apologies to each other — that the friendship once given ought to be trusted. So I am not going to make apologies to you! I wonder if I haven't spoken of that essay before? It is very sensible and it always amused me too — for it seems as if Sir Arthur was a bad correspondent and his essay was an apology in itself. He says that almost all letters between friends begin with excuses for not having written

[*Page 2*]

before — and isn't that true? ——-

I enjoyed your letter very much and it made me wish most heartily that I could see you and have a nice long talk — That is the worst of a very nice letter, to me. It is like beginning a talk and seeing a friend for a few minutes & and then having ~~them~~ ^her^ whisk away again — There was one thing you said which has been the greatest help to me, and I thank you for it very much — our looking for Christ, and saying "this is only the carpenter's son{"} — as we go about our every day work. I have thought of it so many times, and told my girls of it at Sunday School,

[*Page 3*]

and really I don't know when anything has struck me so forcibly or been of more practical use, for it has kept coming into my head again and again —

Do you know, I have not read Daniel Deronda yet! In the first place, I have not had time to read it at my leisure, which I should like to do best. I have been very much amused with H. James's critique of it in the Atlantic* — it gives [both *corrected*] sides certainly and there are some capital hits — Mr. Howells* told me a little about it before it was printed and I was particularly gratified with the young man's answer when one of the girls professes

[*Page 4*]

to ^have^ known some clever and charming Jews — “Clever but not charming.” I think it is such a good 'hit with words'. I wonder if it is not a very shabby thing to have this contempt for that race? with me it is not a prejudice against their belief and history — It is the looks of the Jews!! which is not a high-minded view of things at all.

Well, do you want me to relate some particulars about my own affairs? I am writing with all my might, and have been ever since I came from Boston and Concord where I had a most charming visit. I never

[*Page 5*]

2

had been there to stay very long but now I feel as if I knew Concord by heart — and the people

there are perfectly delightful — and were so kind to me. That was four or five weeks ago and it was delightful weather, so that we were outdoors a great deal boating and walking and driving. I made some very pleasant new friends, one was Miss Preston* who wrote Love in the Nineteenth Century — and I do like her dearly. I hope [you *corrected*] will meet her some time — She had some idea of going to Washington

[*Page 6*]

this winter with the Frenches. If you are in W. this winter I hope you will see them. Judge French* is ass't secretary of the Treasury I believe — Mrs. F. is bright as a lark and their son Dan, who is a rising young sculptor, I am sure you will like as much as I do. He is an uncommonly interesting young fellow — so very pleasant in every way — He is an old playmate of mine — and it is his sister Mrs. Bartlett whom I visit in Concord. They used to live in Exeter and I used to be there a great deal at Grandmamma's

[*Page 7*]

and Dan and I and [Sallie *corrected from* Sally] were great cronies —

I have embarked upon a great piece of business in downright earnest — [making *corrected*] the Deephaven Sketches* into a story and a book, which Mr. Osgood is to publish in the spring — I have lately sent Mr. Howells the last paper — which is longer than the rest and gave me enough to do — and now I am trying to get some other stories done so that I shall have my time clear after the first week in Dec — I gave up this idea wholly, but Mr. Howells was anxious for me to carry out the old plan, and so I

[*Page 8*]

have embarked. Do wish me good luck! I had great trouble of mind in deciding on a publisher, for Roberts Bros. & Mr. Osgood both wished for the book,* and I was greatly puzzled to know which to decide upon, since both offered great advantages — I don't advise you to write stories dear Dawes-y { — } it's not a path of roses — yes it is; but they scratch you! Good bye. I think of you every day — truly — and I wish I could see you this minute — We would go down river and stay all the afternoon — wouldn't we?!

Sincerely your fond friend

S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

You shall have one of my photographs as soon as I get some, which will be when I am {in} Boston again [long enough *?*]. I have always wanted yours so please remember me —

Notes

Helps: British author, Sir Arthur Helps (1813-1875). Wikipedia. The essay to which Jewett refers has not yet been identified. It seems likely that it appeared in one of his collections: *Friends in Council* (1847-59) and *Brevia* (1871).

James's: British novelist, George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) was the author of *Daniel Deronda* (1876). The title character culminates a spiritual search for a meaningful life when he learns that his mother was Jewish and discovers how he wants to live.

Henry James (Key to Correspondents), "Daniel Deronda: A Conversation," *Atlantic Monthly*, XXXVIII (December 1876), 684-694, presented a dialogue between imagined readers of Eliot's final novel. Hollis points out that Jewett's self-consciousness about her petty lack of charity toward Jews was remedied later, when she read Dawes, *The Modern Jew, His Present and Future* (1884). See Jewett to Dawes of 8 January and 5 February 1888.

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. See Key to Correspondents.

Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

According to Encyclopedia.com, *Love in the Nineteenth Century* (1873) is an "essay novel" that "presents Preston's commonsensical program for establishing a workable love relationship. Liberally interspersed throughout ... are Preston's astute critical evaluations of numerous authors and her ideas on national types, tradition, "modern" music, marriage, and feminism. The ... novel also includes a long discussion on the deficiencies of male writers' fictional portraits of women and a prediction that when women writers finally "dare" to speak their minds freely, a 'new order of things in fiction' will result."

Judge French: Henry Flagg French (1813-1885) was an agriculturist, inventor, lawyer, judge, postmaster, assistant district attorney, and assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury. His son, American sculptor, Daniel Chester French (1850-1931) was Jewett's friend from childhood. Wikipedia.

Deephaven Sketches: James Ripley Osgood (see Key to Correspondents) and "Roberts Brothers (1857–1898) both accepted Jewett's proposal to publish *Deephaven* (1877). See Blanchard's account of Jewett's dealings with the publishers in *Sarah Orne Jewett* (2002), pp. 80-1.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*"* *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes
Fragment

South Berwick

11 Dec 1876

Dear Anna

I am very naughty to begin a letter to you this morning: your 'friend the authoress' has other duties (not alone of a literary nature either!) but I think I am very conscientious of late, and since I have taken business before pleasure so many days — I will do as I please now — I have enjoyed your letter very much and it gave me an immense wish to see you. Do you realize how little we have really seen of each other, after all? —— but who shall say that we are not 'getting acquainted'!

I was glad for a minute when I saw that your letter was postmarked Pittsfield* — for I have been thinking

[*Page 2*]

that you were in Boston. Ella* wrote me that she expected you soon after Thanksgiving and wished that I would come up if only for a day or two. I could not possibly go away just now, and I have been so sorry to think that I was missing you — and that it was my last chance, for you would go to W.* later. But it seems that my fears were needless, and I am so glad, because I may have a chance of seeing you after all. I am a very lucky girl about seeing people again — but sometimes I think it is very hard that I cannot be with my cronies more. I used to mourn over it sadly when I was growing up but now that I am older I can see how much better it has been for me, to have lived just the life I have —

[*Page 3*]

I can understand exactly how you [you *repeated*] are both sorry and glad not to go to Washington. I should like so much to go there and see and know something of the political life — for I never have had a chance of that sort of thing. I envy you your having been in the midst of it so much. There is certainly something in this settling of great questions, which makes one think and see farther — than if one is under the necessity of deciding upon little things always. I think village life makes one very narrow if one is not careful. You get to thinking these trivial things the all important points in the world's history. I dont mean by this, that I am not fond of Berwick: there never was such a place in the world! —— And are you also

[*Page 4*]

of the same mind about Pittsfield? ^I don't mean to call Pittsfield a village!^ I know you must be fond of your home. I think too that it makes any [place *corrected*] pleasant when one cares a great deal about the way in which one lives; it is not where, but <u>how</u>, I think, as one grows older — And there is no need of one's growing narrow any where if one tries to find the meaning and purpose — and after it is certain what the work is which may be done, life cannot fail to be satisfactory — But how one grumbles and misses things and complains, over and over again. I know I do. It seems to me that things are not apt to be grand and glorious while one is in the midst of them — They [get *corrected*] to be familiar, and one only thinks of them in the most practical way, with little reverence. I wonder if it is not so about life

[*Page 5*]

2

in Washington? —— The best meaning of the action comes afterward. We seem to be always hindered from giving ourselves up wholly to admiration or to any sentiment. When one goes to the mountains, there must be unpacking and rigging oneself and all manner of smaller interests to come into the thrill and the lifting up of one's whole heart — But when one goes away the mountains alone are remembered — and this makes me think of something which I am always glad to remember — a sermon of Mr. Brooks's.* Perhaps I have already told you about it? —-

The text was 'And there was no room for them in the inn'* — When the poor carpenter and his wife came to that inn at Bethlehem everybody told them that it was full. Mr. Brooks said we could not help noticing how that has been followed out ever since

[*Page 6*]

down through all the hundreds of years. No room for Christ! We find room for everything else and every body else in the busy inn of our hearts — The Jewish farmer was [probably *corrected*] there with his money bags — come to pay his tax. The consequential Rabbi — the proud Roman soldiers — and now they are all forgotten; we do not know anything about one of

them except that they kept Christ out. It is just so with things we make room for! really so worthless after all and to be completely forgotten. So we cramp our souls and the doors are too low for any but little stooping thoughts to enter and the rooms ^get^ filled with rubbish, when God meant us to make them ^a^ fit temple for himself. If the people in the inn had known who was to ^be^ born how eagerly they would have made ready the best room — If they had known it was the Lord of Lords and the

[*Page 7*]

King of Kings, the best friend and the Saviour of us all, what a difference it would have made — And all are too busy or too idle. We let friend after friend come into our hearts and dwell there, but it is hard to find a place for Him. I wish you could have heard that sermon Anna! I don't know that it was so powerful as some others, but it was beautiful. Have we even said to each other that we like Mr. Brooks? I like him more and more — and I realize more how much good his preaching has done me and friends of mine — I like him out of church, too.

So you are not 'flush' this winter any more than I! I suppose it is good for us to feel a little poor, and do you know 'Dawes-y' I would much rather not have quite enough than more than enough — I am pretty sure we enjoy life more — I

[*Page 8*]

think the worst thing is to have people persist that you are rolling in riches and expect you to be generous when you are giving up things you want horridly. I daresay I have more than other girls, but I don't believe there is another person in town who wants more things that she cant have, than I do! I am [either *corrected*] on the top wave of prosperity or in extreme squalor — and whereas I shall probably get high pay in January or February for one or two stories, I haven't just now a cent to bless my self with of my own, and I know father's finances cant be [particularly *corrected*] flourishing either. Did [anybody *corrected*] ever know such hard times?* but ah, those harder times, which make one shiver, though one cannot begin to realize the horror of them! There are almost no very poor people here — at least I do not know of any

[*Page 9*]

3

who really suffer. Shoetown* takes one class & the other factories the French — and Indians, I was going to say! but I mean Irish — and though there has been some cutting down and shutting down, they are not in want — When I am in Boston this winter I mean to make a point of going among poor people and to hospitals. My friend Ellen Mason* is much interested in that sort of thing — and I have been with her some times. I should like to know more of the city poor — and I have a great liking for hospitals —

I have been so busy since I wrote you before — working a great deal more steadily than I ought — for I find I cant write more than five hours a day or so long as that

[*Page 10*]

& keep it up for any length of time — It seems nothing for one or two days, but it wears one out in two or three weeks — I [*unrecognized word*] heartily with my stories — and I am thinking of them the greater part of the time — often when I ought to be thinking of something else. I have just finished one which I should like dearly to read to you, and to hear what you think of it. It is unlike anything that I have ever tried before, and I don't know how it will turn out — I don’t like to get into ruts, and yet I think every one has a rut after all, in which wheels go more easily down the road — that’s not a very good comparison, but I wont scratch it out— One of my friends

[*Page 11*]

is always making fun of me for my illustrations and comparisons, which I march out upon every occasion! I never realized it until she spoke of it — how little one knows of ones ways — we never get acquainted with ourselves, do we?

Yes I have read Fanny Kembles* gossip and enjoy it very much — but Father took the wind out of my sails by saying she didn't write all those letters at the time, he [knows *?*]! He mentioned the one about the first railway trains in particular — I stood up for her, but I dare say she does touch up the canvas a little — and not to be blamed either! I like memoirs and autobiographies very much and I am so delighted with Sydney

[*Page 12*]

Smiths Life by Lady Holland.* I daresay you know it — and isn't it nice — such an earnest purposeful life — and so much gossip and fun beside. I never had read it before, though its not a new book by any means. By the way, I have somewhere some flowers which Fanny Kemble gave Mr. Howells* and he gave me — would you like a dried blossom with the additional luster of having come through the hands of the illustrious [author *corrected*] of The Boy with one Shoe — The Orchard's Grandmother and Half Done Polly?* It is two o'clock and I must say good by — and go to work — Do let me know when you are to be in Boston. I cant promise myself that I

will be there then — but I should like it dearly{.} I think I never wished to go to Boston more. I hope you will have a lovely visit in Worcester — Aren't you tired?

[*Up the left and across the top margins of page 9*]

I don't know exactly why I ask you that. God bless you dear! and don't forget that I am

Your loving friend Sarah O. Jewett

Mary* sends a heap of love to you and says don't you wish Ella would have another wedding!

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 5*]

I have not wished you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I [meant *or* mean] I have not told you that I send you my good wishes for those days and all your other days. Some how I dont feel as if I had half answered your letter. I can't thank you enough for it. I have enjoyed it so much, and have learned from it too, a great deal. But I wish we could have a talk!

[*Up the left margin and part way across the top margin of page 6*]

I hope you are minding the second division of the philosophical poem, "When it is cold you must not scold!" Isn't that funny?

Notes

Pittsfield: Pittsfields, MA, was the home of the Dawes family, but at this time, when her father was in Congress, they resided in Washington, DC during legislative sessions.

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

W: Washington, DC.

Brooks's: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

"And there was no room for them in the inn": Phillips Brooks published this sermon for Christmas Eve in Sermons for the *Principal Festivals and Fasts of the Church Year* (1895), pp. 72-84.

hard times: Jewett refers to what has come to be called "The Long Depression," a world-wide price and economic recession that lasted from 1873 until at least 1879.

Shoetown: This is the area around the Cummings Shoe Factory, built in 1871 in South Berwick.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

missing material: It seems clear that part of this letter is missing. Hollis did not find it when he worked with this manuscript.

Fanny Kembles: Wikipedia says: Frances Anne "Fanny" Kemble (1809 - 1893) "was a notable British actress from a theatre family in the early and mid-19th century. She was a well-known and popular writer, whose published works included plays, poetry, eleven volumes of memoirs, travel writing and works about the theatre." Kemble married an American cotton planter in 1834 and separated from him in 1847. She returned to England in 1877.

Howells: William Dean Howells, Key to Correspondents.

Holland: *A Memoir of the Reverend Sidney Smith. By His Daughter, Lady Holland*. Two Volumes. London, 1855. Identified by Hollis.

Half Done Polly:"The Boy with One Shoe" appeared in *The Independent* in October 1871. "The Orchard's Grandmother" was in *Merry's Museum*, May 1871. "Half-Done Polly" appeared in *The Independent* in October 1871 and was collected in *Play Days* (1878).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

"When it is cold you must not scold!": This "philosophical" poem was published anonymously in several newspapers in 1876 (and perhaps earlier). Sometimes attributed to James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916), the verse has been anthologized frequently in collections for children.

Weather
If the weather is wet we must not fret.
If the weather is dry we must not cry.
If the weather is warm, we must not storm.
If the weather is cold, we must not scold.
Whatever the weather, we are friends together.

The last two lines often vary to read: "Be thankful together, whatever the weather."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*"* *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Mary S. Fuller to Sarah Orne Jewett

Concord, N. H. Dec. 12 [1876]*

My dear Sarah

I am determined that the year shant come to a close & find your lovely letter of so long [ago *?*] still unanswered. I have been meaning to write you [*unrecognized words*] ever since you disappointed me so by not [coming *?*] to Concord. It really was a great trial to my soul to have you not only go to visit Sallie* the minute I had left but then when my hopes were

[*Page 2*]

raised & I was depending upon seeing you here, to have that pleasure elude my grasp. Do, dear Sarah, plan to come sometime within the next six months while I am here. Will you not? A good long talk with you would be such a pleasant thing! Isn't it funny to think ^I am^ here in Concord — & I am enjoying it ever so much, too. I have a very nice little class [*unrecognized words*] me in the mornings & then I take German & French lessons, one or the other every day except Saturday. That keeps me quite busy, but aside from those, I am dipping into skating & [sleigh riding driving *so this appears*] & [*unrecognized word*] having a

[*Page 3*]

a [*two unrecognized words*] jolly time. — I see your friends [*several unrecognized words*] ^[Walter *?*]^ & Miss Fiske* very often. They come here every Monday night to a series of readings we are having of the old English poets. Coz. Annie* has invited a number of young ladies to come — We are reading Chaucer at present & enjoying it.

What about your Deephaven Stories?* Are they really to be published in a book? How delightful, & when will it be out? Then what else have you been writing? Please, if you have written any more little poems send me a copy of them — You don't know how much pleasure I have had myself, & have given to others by the little

[*Page 4*]

verse on the "Buttercup & Daisy", & "Together" —* And I want to be <u>sure</u> to know if you have written any others —

I had a letter this morning from my friend Fannie Bates of Westfield* whom I wish you might know & like — & I thought that one of the <u>really</u> hard things in life to bear is the necessary separation from many of the friends we love best — They are scattered about in so many, many places & at most we can only have them at long intervals for a little time — How it is one of the very lovely parts of another life, that we shan't be separated by <u>space</u> from those we love!

Do you expect to go to Boston anywhere about Xmastide? If so, we <u>must</u> meet. My plan is to go to Boston next week Friday to remain over

[*Written in the margins and across p. 1, starting at the bottom of the left margin*]

New Year's — & I want to see everything I can of my friends then — How lovely it would be if among the very new things to happen, seeing you could be among them! With all good wishes for you dear, always believe me most aff'ly yr friend

Mary S. Fuller

[*Apparently a post script, cross-written on the lower left portion of page 1*]

Do forgive my sending you so hurried a letter. It is too <u>bad</u>, but I really just have enough time to write [this ! *?*]

I hope you wont be <u>quite</u> so [hurrying *?*] as I have [been *?*] —

Notes

Concord, N. H. Dec. 12: On the microfilm, this information is very difficult to read, especially as Fuller has cross-written the first page. This information is supplied on the catalog page for this letter. As Fuller speaks of the expected publication of Jewett's *Deephaven*, which was in the spring of 1877, this letter almost certainly was composed in December of 1876.

Sallie: This person has not yet been identified.

Walter ... Miss Fiske: Walter has not yet been identified. Miss Fiske almost certainly is Mary Walker Fisk. Key to Correspondents.

Coz. Annie: This person has not yet been identified.

Chaucer: British poet Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343-1400), author of *The Canterbury Tales*.

Deephaven Stories: Jewett's novel, *Deephaven* appeared in 1877.

"Together": The "buttercup and daisy" poem is "Discontent," which first appeared in *St. Nicholas* (3:247) February 1876. "Together" first appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (35:590) May 1875.

Fannie Bates of Westfield: This person remains unidentified. Westfield is a common town name in New England, as Fannie Bates is a common woman's name. Were Mary Fuller's identity known with certainty, more of her friends and family could be identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James R. Osgood

South Berwick, Me.

15 Dec. 1876

My dear Mr. Osgood

Cannot you write me within a few days about my book? — I cannot make my plans for my writing unless I know yours, and I am putting off some other work on account of this. I do not even know if you care to publish Deephaven Cronies,* and if you do not, I ought to make an arrangement with someone else if it is to come out in

[*Page 2*]

the early spring — I wish to know very much if you approved the plan of which I told you — that is if you care for the book — and — but I will not repeat my questions. I beg your pardon for any annoyance that I give you; but I am getting hindered in my work, because I don't know what I am to do, and nothing seems to be settled —

Perhaps you have been waiting to see the last sketches? If you have not found time to look them over yet, I can tell you now, frankly, that they are neither better nor worse than

[*Page 3*]

the first 'Cronies' & the 'Excursions',* and if you are satisfied with those,* with my idea of rearranging them — I think you will be with these.

yrs sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Mr. Osgood —

Notes

Deephaven Cronies: Jewett's first novel, finally titled *Deephaven*, appeared in 1877, published by James R. Osgood. See Osgood to Jewett of 16 December 1876.

'Cronies' & the 'Excursions': Jewett's "Deephaven Cronies" appeared in *Atlantic* in September 1875; "Deephaven Excursions" appeared in September 1876, also in *Atlantic*.

This manuscript of this letter is held by Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library, in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

James Ripley Osgood to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions handwritten*]

Cathedral Building, Washing Square, Boston. [*Graphic design elements*]* Entrance 220 Devonshire St., and 213 Franklin St.

Boston, Dec 16 1876

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett

Pardon my delay in writing you, and set it down to the "busy season".

We accept your book* and will publish it in the spring. Let us have the copy as soon as you can after January 1st.

Very truly yours

J R Osgood

Notes

Letterhead: This letterhead has an elaborate design. Within a horizontally oriented oval at top center are grouped two piles of books, in front a pile of 4 visible volumes, the top titled "JAMES R OSGOOD & CO PUBLISHERS BOSTON"; beneath this pile are certificates, the visible one with the words "ART EDUCATION." Behind this pile is a row of six volumes. Below the oval is a banner within which is this text: "Late Ticknor & Fields and Fields, Osgood &Co".

book: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877). See Jewett to Osgood of 15 December 1876.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 170. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

22 Dec. 1876

Dear Prof. Parsons —

The reason I have not written you is that I have had to work very hard all the time. Mr. Osgood wants the book ^'copy'^ to be ready as early in January as possible and I did not suppose that I should have to send it before the middle of February. I find it hard work, for I was tired when I began, and this rearranging and

rewriting bothers me a great deal more — because I am not used to it.— However, everything

[*Page 1*]

is going on very pleasantly and Mr. Osgood is very kind, and I am contented —

I don't do much except write, as you may imagine — and I shall be glad to take a little vacation by and by — for I have never worked so steadily for so long — I shall take the copy to Mr. Osgood myself when it is ready, for I think it will be a much better way than to arrange the business by endless letter-writing. I am going to try to have some pretty covers on the book — and to have it nice looking — for I think it makes a great difference with many people. I am trying my best

[*Page 2*]

to make the inside of the book good — you may be sure!

I have been writing some other stories since I wrote you last — one for the Independent called Patty's Long Vacation* — which is ^about^ the same "Patty' who had a "Dull Christmas" last year — and another ^is^ called Lady Ferry — which Mr. Howells is looking at now. It completely fascinated me, but I am not at all sure that the story is a success — I have [*deletion*] begun some other things but I had to leave them just where they were when I found how I must hurry with the Deephaven Cronies —

It was a great satisfaction to me to know that you approved my

[*Page 4*]

deciding to go to Mr.Osgood. I ought to have written at once to thank you for your letter, and I meant to do so. Just at that time I had to be pretty careful for my eyes were not strong, and I have been neglecting my letters at any rate, for one can put those off until 'tomorrow' always — But if I did not tell you so, you may be sure I am none the less grateful —

I am getting rather low spirited about the book. I dare say it is because I am so tired of it myself that I am perfectly sure it will seem as dull to everybody else as to me. One needs to be very fresh and to feel very 'jolly' to do such work as this, do not you think so?

[*Page 5*]

2

I wish it were [in *corrected*] October and that I had just come home [from *corrected*] York. I am out of the spirit of Deephaven life, though I am more interested and it seems more real to me than it did a week ago — I'm going down to Portsmouth to spend a day with Georgie Halliburton!* I think that will be a great tonic. I suppose I shall be in Boston to see Mr. Osgood about the fifteenth of January — but it will be only for a day and night, and I am afraid I shall not get out to Cambridge — the days are so short. But I am to make some

[*Page 6*]

visits in Boston and one in Concord in February and I [shall *corrected*] hope to see you then certainly —

I hope your eyes are better, indeed I hope they are quite well — Will you please tell Miss Sabra* that I hear once in a while from Mrs. Coale and that she and Miss Julia* seem as delighted as ever with their travels — Mrs. Coale is always so enthusiastic about Rome — which seems to be her heart's delight.

— I wish you a merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

With love, yours always [sincerely *corrected*]

Sarah —

Notes

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents. The book is *Deephaven* (1877), though Jewett refers to it in this letter by her working title, *Deephaven Cronies*.

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

"Patty's Long Vacation" …"Lady Ferry": "Patty's Long Vacation" appeared in *The Independent* (28:25) on May 23, 1878. "Lady Ferry" first appeared in *Old Friends and New* (1879).

For William Dean Howells, Key to Correspondents.

Georgie Halliburton: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Coale … Miss Julia: The identities of these people are not known. Jewett mentions them again in a letter to Susan Manning Haven of 30 May 1892, where she gives Julia's surname as Bell. Both appear on a list of Bostonian subscribers to the Massachusetts Infant Asylum in 1868: *Annual Report of the Directors of the Massachusetts Infant Asylum*. There it appears that Miss Bell may be related to a Mrs. Joseph Bell.

Miss Sabra: For Mary Sabra Parsons, see Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Francis Jackson Garrison to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY'S PERIODICALS.

The Atlantic Monthly and Portrait of Longfellow or Bryant.....	$5 a year.
The Atlantic Monthly	4.00 "
U. S. Official Postal Guide, *quarterly.....*	1.50 "
American Law Times and Reports, *monthly .....*	6.00 '
America Naturalist, *monthly*	4.00 "
Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, *weekly .....*	5.00 "

Hurd and Houghton
12 Astor Place,
New York.

H. O. Houghton and Company
cor. Beacon
Somerset sts.
Boston

The Riverside Press,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Dec. 27 1876*

[*End letterhead*]

Miss Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick, Me.

Dear Madam: We have been contemplating the issue of a series of Atlantic stories in handy & popular form, & had we decided on them before now, your Deephaven sketches* would have been among those papers which we should have selected for reprinting. We may still carry out our idea, but have no wish to keep you waiting on an uncertainty, & so cheerfully give our consent to your reproducing them in book form as proposed, through Msfrs. Osgood & Co. We remain, with best wishes for its success,

Yours very truly,

H. O. Houghton & Co.

F. J. G.

Notes

1876: The underlined portions of the letterhead were written in by hand.

Deephaven sketches: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877) was built out of sketches that had appeared in *Atlantic*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Houghton & Co., H.O. 1 letter; 1876. (100). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James R. Osgood

South Berwick

29 Dec. 1876

Dear Mr. Osgood:

I have a letter from Messrs Houghton & Co* telling me that they have been thinking of reprinting some of the Atlantic stories and should have chosen the Deephaven sketches* for one of the little books. But they have no wish to keep me waiting since there is uncertainty about the time and "cheerfully give their consent to my reproducing them in book-form as proposed through Messrs Osgood & Co — " with their best wishes for my success. I am very

[*Page 2*]

glad I wrote to them, since with this plan of theirs, they would have thought me very rude!

I wish to tell you too, that I must be later than the tenth of January with my 'copy' for I have been sick and have lost some of my time. I hope not much later however.

Mr. Howells* thinks I had better not try to have the last chapters I wrote published first in the Atlantic. He says they will not do so well for a magazine as the others did — standing by themselves, but he praises them most kindly for the book. I was afraid myself

[*Page* 3]

that they would not do — and that it would make a great deal of trouble for I have only one good copy of the chapters and [that would *corrected*] be wanted at both places! Mr. Howells says beside, that it is much better to have the book partly new, which seems to me very sensible — for the people who have it all in the Atlantic would not be particularly eager to buy it —

Would you rather see these chapters [for *corrected*] yourself? I should not like for you to be dissatisfied with having accepted the book. Or if you were to think of it when you see Mr. Howells he would tell you — Though I am sure he would have told me if he thought they had

[*Page 4*]

better be re-written — for he knows, I think, that I wish to do my work just as well as I can —

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

Houghton & Co: Later named Houghton, Mifflin & Company, this publisher printed the rest of Jewett's books — excepting *The Story of the Normans* (1887) — after the James R. Osgood Co. published her first.

Deephaven sketches: Jewett published three sketches set in the fictional town of Deephaven, Maine in *Atlantic Monthly* between September 1873 and September 1876. These were collected with extensive additions and revisions in her first novel, *Deephaven* 1877.

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Haverford College Library in the Roberts Collection. It has been transcribed previously by David Bonnell Green in "Two Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett." *Notes and Queries* 5 (1958): 361-362. New transcription and notes.

1877

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

[*1877*]*

My dear Mr Osgood

May I introduce you to Miss Mason* who wishes to talk with you about the publication of a story for children. I have read most of the story, (which is written by Miss Porter* of Louisiana), and I liked it very much. It seemed to me that what I saw of it was very bright and entertaining — I think there may be a chance that you could

[*Page 2*]

use it in the fall — and I have grown very sure that people must by that time give more attention to reading than they do now! Miss Mason has the care of the story for the present (as Miss Porter is so far from the scene of publication), and I know that she will be very glad of any advice that you can give her. And I shall add it to the long list of your favors

[*Page 3*]

and kindnesses to me —

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jewett

Notes

1877: This date is speculative, based upon the publication of a 3-part piece by Anna Porter in 1878. See below, Jewett to Ellen Mason regarding Miss Porter, probably of 1877.

Miss Mason: Ellen Mason. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Porter: At the end of 1877, Jewett wrote to William Hayes Ward concerning "Negro pictures" that he has decided to publish in *The Independent* in the 11 April 1878 issue. These three stories were by Anna Porter, who *probably* was Lydia Ann Emerson Porter (1816-1898), a second cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson and a New England educator and author who published under several names. She is not known to have published in *St. Nicholas* during 1877 or 1878. Jewett apparently was acting as a sort of intermediary, helping Mason to help Miss Porter to place her work in St. Nicholas.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 271.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ellen Mason

[*1877*]*

Dear Ellen

I send you Mrs. D's letter which I think very nice, and I should certainly try to see if she likes the story before seeing a publisher, if I were Miss Porter.* [Wont *or* Cant] you send the note to her please, so that she will understand it exactly —

[*Page 2*]*

You are kind to tell us of the story. At present we have no need of a serial but we should be glad to have a chance to examine this book before it is taken elsewhere. It is possible that if it should exactly [fit *corrected*] the magazine in spirit and execution some favorable arrangement might be made in regard to it. Of course at present this is only a vague surmise, but we at least promise to try to give a prompt decision on reading the ms.

Yours truly

M.M.D.

Notes

1877: This date is speculative, based upon the publication of a 3-part piece by Anna Porter in *The Independent*, not *St. Nicholas*, in 1878. See notes below.

Page 2: Jewett has written her unsigned note on the back of a letter regarding what appears to be a proposal for submitting a book to Mary Mapes Dodge, editor of *St. Nicholas* magazine. Key to Correspondents.

At the end of 1877, Jewett wrote to William Hayes Ward concerning "Negro pictures" that he has decided to publish in *The Independent* in the 11 April 1878 issue. These three stories were by Anna Porter, who probably was Lydia Ann Emerson Porter (1816-1898), a second cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson, a New England educator and author who published under several names. She is not known to have published in *St. Nicholas* during 1877 or 1878.

Apparently, Jewett was acting as a sort of intermediary, helping Mason to help Miss Porter to place her work in *St. Nicholas*.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Box: 5 Identifier: MS Am 1743, (250), Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett. Chase, Ellen, recipient. 3 letters; 1876 & [n.d.], 1876.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

7 Jan. 1877

Dear Prof. Parsons:

I have not much that's new to tell you, but I feel like writing to you. I am getting on very well with my book though I have been sick since I wrote you last, and am getting tired — I hope to get through sometime next week and I shall be delighted. I have been in Deephaven* altogether lately, and not in Berwick! If it had not been for my taking such a horrid cold it would have been easier — still I believe it was a great deal better that I had to [stop *corrected*] for a little while — and I really am

[*Page 2*]

not so tired now as I was [*deletion*] before — I like what I know of Mr. Osgood* very much indeed and am quite contented which is a good thing — As for the new writing: I have one chapter about the widow Jim Patton — who was a factotum of Miss Brandon's — "Kate's" aunt who owned the house — for I thought there ought to be one old woman gossip — as I have so many old sailors and 'longshore men. Then I have a new beginning and a new last chapter — and ever so many bits to put in all the way along — As I told you, I am going to Boston to see Mr. Osgood myself and attend

[*Page 3*]

to whatever business there is — I think the 'copy' will make two hundred pages of the size we had in mind — and I am glad, for Mr. Osgood at first thought there might be hardly enough — I am going to make a point of having pretty covers —

I did not know when I wrote you before how near I might have been to a worse complication about the publisher. I wrote to Houghton and Co — for permission to use the printed sketches in the Atlantic thinking it a mere formality — and while they gave permission most cheerfully and wished me good luck — they said they had intended to republish Deephaven themselves but had no wish to keep me waiting

[*Page 4*]

for it was uncertain as to time! It would be a pity if the book should be a failure. But I never have expected it to be 'popular'; it is not that kind of book — If my friends like it and Mr. Osgood loses no money I shall be very glad — and of course I should like it to be a pleasant success — I do not think I am sensitive about my work — I can understand those sketches being dull to a great many people who like a plot rather than a plan — and more of a 'story'.

When I am in Boston in February I hope I shall see you more than once — I am looking forward to my visits with the greatest pleasure — Goodbye — yours with love

Sarah —

I hope Mrs. Parsons has no return of her last winter's illness —

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Lilian May Munger to Sarah Orne Jewett

Farmington Me.

Jan. 11, 1877

Dear Sarah:

When I feel so tired as I do tonight I always wish for you, and then it is such a comfort to read one of your letters. I very often think when wishing for you, that I could have no letters if I were right there with you all the time. You can never tell, Sarah, unless you have experienced [at the *intending* that *?*] same feeling at some period of your life, when you were groping between light and dark, what a peace and happiness always comes to me with one of your letters. A sweet assurance that

[*Page 2*]

one for whom I care very much feels an interest in me, and no thought in the world is so exquisitely direct. Then, too, such an [assuagement *?*] as I always get. I have been wondering this week if mother can see any difference in me. I want to see the fruit. That little discovery of Leslie's "Perhaps all may not be learned"* went to my heart with a peculiar force. It seemed to me that I could appreciate the feeling of joy not unalloyed, however, with doubt, with which she hailed the thought. There are many sweet thoughts all through, but as you say, one cannot take it all in at a first reading. Don't you think Leslie was rather too

[*Page 3*]

good for one just beginning to think, and didn't [she *?*] Lin Laxard* change rather suddenly? I mean ~~didn't she~~ ^was not her entire^ forget^fulness^ of herself in her care for the others, rather to be wondered at, as with most people, is it that easy to do what is right? I think "Delight" is lonely. To me, the hardest thing that Leslie did (and the most heroic) was to formally sever herself from her own friends although conscious that this cause was not wholly approved {by} them, and in order to promote the happiness of others less favored than herself. I am going to read the book again in vacation. It does me lots of good every time I take it up. But my conscience, and

[*Page 4*]

my maternal relative point to the clock, and I fear I must yield. I think I might succeed in guiding the former but the latter remains obdurate and for my tomorrow's credit I acquiesce. Just let me say that your last letter was heavenly — only I was so sorry to hear that you had been sick. I hope you didn't take cold by going fishing in a snow storm! For your own welfare, please let me remind you of the very excellent advice you have given me, on being careful of myself. Then I am so glad you are getting along so nicely with Deephaven.* What a pretty name that is. I should think it would be very taking. Love to all and

[*Up the right margin of page 4*]

many many thanks too [Yours last with love *?*]*

[*Upper left margin of p. 1, written down from left margin*]

Ellen

[*Unrecognized name, possibly* Willamena]

[Lucia *?*]*

Notes

Leslie: Munger refers to *A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life* (1866), by Adeline Dutton Train Whitney (1824-1906).

[*she ?*]: This part of the letter is quite puzzling. Munger seems fairly clearly to write "Lin Laxard," or "Laxand," where I have placed "she," which seems to be the word called for by the context. There is no character in Whitney's novel with such a name, and it would seem odd for Munger to shift attention to another character while reflecting on Leslie.

"Delight": Cousin Delight is a character in *A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life .*

love ? : The letter appears to be unsigned, though there may be an initial "L" at the end of this line.

Lucia ?: The meaning of this seeming list of names is not known, nor is it clear that it is in Munger's hand.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters, , from a Columbia University Libraries microfilm copy of the manuscript.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

Dear Mrs. Ellis will please accept this memento from her very affectionate friend

Sarah O. Jewett

17 January 1877

Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 5, Item

254. II. Letters by Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

7 February 1877

Dear Prof. Parsons —

I wish I could have gone out to see you week before last when I went to Boston with the book,* but I was so tired and sick that I came home in a [few *corrected*] days without finishing my visits — I overworked myself, and have just begun to feel like myself again — though I am not yet strong — I did not know how very tired I was until the book was done —

Everything seems to be going on nicely, and I like Mr. Osgood* very much. I have never repented of my choice

[*Page 2*]

though perhaps you will say that it is rather early to know the practical result of it, and that I shall be surer of my publisher when I know how the book sells ^(not that he will be to blame for its failure!)^ It is to be out before long: in March probably — I have had two packages of proofs, and the book is to be two hundred and forty pages long — the name is to be simply Deephaven. I called it at first Deephaven Cronies as I told you I should, ~~but~~ and I still have a lingering fondness for the ^name^ though perhaps it is not quite so 'high-toned', as they say in Philadelphia! I am going to Boston to see Mr. Osgood, (if I am well enough) next week

[*Page 3*]

and afterward to Concord for a little visit and then I shall be in Boston ^again^ for a few days — I shall hope to see you — there is so much I wish to ask and to tell you. It seems a great while since I saw you and it was for only a few minutes anyway — in October.

I hope that your eyes do not trouble you as you said they did when I last heard from you. I think it the hardest thing to be patient about, at [least *corrected*] it is [harder *?*] for me — not to be able even to read!

I have a great deal to tell you about my book, and I wish so much that I were talking [with *corrected*] you! I have thought so often of

[*Page 4*]

your telling me to be careful, and to make it just as good as possible in every way. Truly, I have done my work as well as I possibly could and if it is not lucky I shall be sorry of course, but not half so sorry for myself as for my friends who have been so kind and taken so much interest in me and what I am trying to do — I think you know just how I feel about it ——

I should like to write longer, but it is growing late and I am tired and stupid — It is an odd thing to happen to me but I find it takes a great effort to write at all lately. I begin with so much to say, and think I will cover three or four sheets but I can only say there is more affection than letter! With love yours sincerely

Sarah

Notes

the book: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Caroline Augusta Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Friday morning

[*Late winter 1877*]*

write often

Dear Sarah:

I send you a letter from Seeger* that came yesterday. I should like to know how many letters I have sent you in the last week. This week of dissipation is nearly at an end, & I am not sorry, for I do not think so much unsteadiness agrees with me! It is a gray morning but I hope it will clear in time for the "Pound Party."* We are going to meet at the [entry *?*], and then [*unrecognized word*] in upon the unhappy victims, about the time we usually go to Bible class. I am going to take a pound of writing paper, and I believe Carrie intends taking some coffee but am not sure. I shall be thankful when it is all over. Last night we went to the Baptist Fair,* & had a very nice time. The place was crowded full of people, and they seemed to be selling off their things very

[*Page 2*]

fast. Becca Youngs* class had the prettiest table. And all the most expensive things on it sold at once. Carrie* & I tried to get one or two things, but found they were already engaged. Poor Miss Lizzie Parks* looked tired out, and so

did Sister Bailey* & several [*deleted word*] of the hard workers. Miss Lizzie told me that they sold 415 tickets so you may imagine there was something of a crowd.

Tonight ~~she~~ Mr. Malloy* and a lot of the Salmon Falls ne'er do wells have invited that miserable Sam Downing* (whose mother was burned up last winter) to give a lecture over ^here^ in the hall & have engaged the band to escort him over! Carrie says there is a poster down the street with words a foot long, setting forth the glories that may be expected. I should think those men might be better employed but you can't help laughing at them{.}

[*Page 3*]

Carrie is going to Brunswick* Monday I believe, but I have no idea when she means to come home.

Your Ma is in the full tide of happiness over a plate of cake I brought from the Fair! I saw lots of old Baptists last night that I have not seen for years. Sarah Hayman went! George Tompsons small boy* broke his leg, sliding, and is likely to prove a discipline and a dispensation of Providence* to your Pa, by reason of his peculiarities of temper. John* is assistant surgeon to his great delight. The sleighing has departed very fast, but we still scratch round in sleighs because the drifts ^out of town^ are still too bad for a wagon. I saw Mary Esther go by to her school in a buggy this morning, which does not promise very well for our plan of going over to Geo Wentworths* in a sleigh{.}

[*Page 4*]

I wish [that *corrected*] owl never had been heard of, for I have been over there three times without finding Geo Wentworth at home and the two women over there do not seem to have wit enough to ask him about the owls so that I can know about them. Father had a letter from Uncle John* yesterday but there was no news in it that I can remember.

Mary* has gone in [pursuit *?*] of your Pa to give him a telegram from Exeter to see a Mrs [Babbit *?*]* whom he went to see day before yesterday and there is very little time before the cars leave so [*three unrecognized words*] to send the letters off. I hope you are enjoying yourself and wont get tired or take cold{.} glad to learn you are [rested *?*] and hope you will come home quickly

with love from your Mother

Notes

Late winter 1877: This letter could have been composed in almost any year from about 1875, when John Tucker came to the Jewetts, through 1878, when Jewett's father died in September. I have chosen 1877 because by then, Jewett's sister Carrie at age 22 was not yet married, but was old enough to travel on her own to Brunswick, and because Jewett was away from home in Boston during part of March that year. However, in February of 1878, she was in Washington, DC. While this would be early for the Maine weather Mrs. Jewett describes, it would not be impossible for the snow to disappear in February.

Seeger: C. Carroll Hollis says that Seeger probably is Harriet Foot Seeger (b. 1843?), a schoolteacher friend of the Jewetts from Boston. She may be the daughter of Adonijah and Clarissa (Woodworth) Foot.

"Pound Party": A pound party typically would be given for newlyweds or as a welcome to new neighbors. Participants each would bring one pound of some useful item, such as writing paper.

Carrie: Jewett's sister, Caroline, who later married Ned Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Baptist Fair: A church organized event usually to raise funds for the church or some other cause.

Becca Youngs: Rebecca Young. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Lizzie Parks: Probably Elizabeth Cutts Parks (1831-1918), mentioned in *The Placenames of South Berwick*, pp. 72, 82, a near Jewett neighbor. According to this account, her family helped to found the First Baptist Church of South Berwick in the early 19th century.

Sister Bailey: Sarah Orne Jewett refers to a Hattie Bailey in a letter of 1874. However, neither Hattie nor Sister Bailey has yet been identified.

Mr. Malloy ... Sam Downing: Possibly Mrs. Jewett refers to Charles Malloy, owner of a Boots and Shoes shop in the business block of South Berwick. A resident of nearby Rollinsford, NH, He married Ellen Jane Wentworth (b. 1836), his second wife, in 1853. In 1858, he was secretary of the Masons Granite Lodge No. 65 at Salmon Falls, NH. If he is the right "Mr. Malloy," then the meeting he arranged may have been held in either of two meeting halls, recently constructed after the 1870 fire that destroyed much of the South Berwick business block: the Masonic Hall or the Newichawannock Hall. See *The Placenames of South Berwick*, p. 96.

Sam Downing has not been identified, though he may be a local politician, Samuel

Downing, who, for a number of years, served in the New Hampshire house of representatives from New Durham. Given Mrs. Jewett's amusement at the group, it may be that the meeting was about temperance and the Maine Law of 1851.

Brunswick: Presumably Brunswick, ME, where she could visit with Jewett relatives, the Charles Gilman family. Key to Correspondents.

Sarah Hayman ... George Tompsons small boy: Probably this is Sarah Hayman (c. 1814-1895), wife or sister of Edward Hayman (c. 1813 - 1871). The identity of George Thompson remains unknown. A person of that name who died in 1892 was buried in South Berwick.

a discipline and a dispensation of Providence: In Christian religious discourse, a dispensation of Providence is a choice made by God regarding a human's fate. Mrs. Jewett speculates, perhaps humorously, that the injured boy will test Dr. Jewett in a spiritual way.

John: This may be John Tucker, a long-time Jewett family employee. Key to Correspondents.

Mary Esther ... Geo Wentworths: Mary Esther Cushing (b. 1831) was sister and assistant to Olive Raynes, who for more than 50 years taught elementary students at her private school in South Berwick.

The Wentworths, like the Lords, were a very large and complex family in the South Berwick area. Which George Wentworth Mrs. Jewett refers to is not yet known.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Uncle John: John Taylor Gilman Perry, Mrs. Jewett's brother. See Dr. William Gilman Perry in Key to Correspondents.

Exeter ... Mrs [*Babbit ?*]: The identity of Mrs. Babbit, if this is the correct transcription, remains unknown.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters, , from a Columbia University Libraries microfilm copy of the manuscript.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Wednesday

[*28 February 1877*]*

Dear Sarah:

I have just sent a letter to Carrie,* and suppose you will like to hear the particulars too. Did you get the letter I sent to Concord Monday morning? I was afraid it would not reach there until after you left, but did not know where else to send it. It must be lovely in Boston this — [*so punctuated*] morning & I would like to be there myself.

It is hard work to tell whether to go out in a wagon or sleigh here for some roads are all bare, and others full of drifts. Yesterday afternoon John* took me down to Mrs Goodwins,* and

[*Page 2*]

then I walked over to the Yeatons* where he called for me. Mary Yeaton looks as if she would not live three months but more likely she will live to be sixty as her mother did. I shouted at Carrie* until I made my throat ache, and I felt as if I had been working hard all day, and yet she was not as deaf as usual. Mr. Lewis* was very sick Monday night with a severe chill and aching all over, but yesterday he was nicely again. I must go and inquire for his riverence [*so written*] today. Lucia and Annie Barker* spent most of the afternoon here yesterday, and were very pleasant. Mr Potter* lectured here last

[*Page 3*]

evening, but I did not feel moved to go. Mr. Eastman* made us a call and announced with a face as long as a yardstick that he missed Carrie dreadfully. His expression was very funny{;} he was so solemn over it. Augusta* concluded the other night at the Fair, that Freddy Neally and his adored Jennie* had had a misunderstanding for he was sitting at one table with Maria Lord* eating oysters and she at another with some other small boy; Mary Nealley* has been pecking at me for three or four days because she did not know about the party at Mr Lewis's until Aunt [Ben *?*] told her Tuesday{.}

[*Page 4*]

Evidently she does not think three days notice sufficient. She said it was a onesider [*so written*] affair for only half the people knew about it! She found out her mistake when she got there! I have only seen Mrs. Knight* once since she came. For a wonder she has not been in, though she is out nearly every day. I am going

up to Great Falls bye & by to match some worsted, and for John to collect some [ties *?*] {.} We went week before last on the latter errand and [had *corrected*] great luck. I hear the Baptists made $150. ~~do~~ from their fair last week. I am so glad they succeeded [so *written over* to] well. I have not seen Miss Lizzie Parks since.* Mrs [Potter *?*] and

[*Page 5*]

two of her children have been here since last Thursday, & I suppose Mr. Potter came yesterday so she must be very busy —

Did I tell you that Mr. Kneeland* ~~was~~ is to join the church next Sunday? I believe the Methodists have a revival preacher down there this week, but have not heard anything ^more^ about it.

Mr William* is coming to dinner to day. He was asking for you with uncommon interest Sunday. Carrie sent a postal card yesterday to announce her safe arrival and I hope we will have a letter to day. You must have had a delightful visit in Concord and I know your Boston one will be no less pleasant. Have you heard anything of Aunt Longs* intentions? Did she mention

[*Page 6*]

a week, or am I mistaken? Your Cousin Freelands* letter lies before me still unanswered. I must take heart of grace and write the poor child today.

Give a great deal of love to all my friends. Where are <u>you</u>?

Yours affly, M.R.J.

Notes

28 February 1877: The Columbia identification page indicates that the envelope was cancelled on 28 February, addressed to 5 Walnut St. in Boston, the address of Grace Gordon. Key to Correspondents.

The year is inferred from a related letter of 10 March 1877, in which MRJ reports on the delay of Mr. Kneeland joining the church.

Carrie: Carrie Jewett Eastman, though in 1877, she had not yet married Edwin Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs Goodwins: Probably this is Sophia Elizabeth Hayes Goodwin, who lived in Oldfields, at some distance from the Jewett house, near the Hamilton House. See Pirsig, *The Placenames of South Berwick,* p. 28 map and pp. 31-2.

Yeatons ... Mary Yeaton ... Carrie: The Yeaton family was prominent in South Berwick. Pirsig's maps, pp. 21 and 28, show the location of Mrs. Goodwin's house and show Yeatons living nearby, near the Oldfields cemetery and the Yeaton Mills. Isaac P. Yeaton (1805-1886) operated the mills during Jewett's lifetime. His wife was Caroline M. Yeaton (1828-1912), who may be the deaf "Carrie" Jewett refers to. However, Mary remains unidentified.

Mr. Lewis: George Lothrop Lewis. Key to Correspondents.

Lucia and Annie Barker: Lucia may be Lucia Nason, who is mentioned in a letter to Sarah Orne Jewett of 10 May 1900.

Annie Barker was a South Berwick neighbor about whom rather little is known. In Mary Rice Jewett's 1892 letters to her sister while Sarah Orne Jewett was traveling in Europe, she reported regularly about Caroline March Barker (1833- 16 April 1892). According to Find a Grave, buried in the same cemetery in Rochester, NH, with Caroline Barker, is her first cousin, Anna Simpson Barker (1834-1921). It seems likely that she is the Annie Barker of this letter, then residing in South Berwick.

Mr. Potter: While this cannot be certain, it seems possible that Jewett refers to the Reverend James H. Potter, D.D. (1828-1903), who seems sometimes to have presented temperance lectures. His wife was Sybil Ann Stevens (1831-1917).

Mr. Eastman: Edwin Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Augusta: This may be Augusta Maria Denny Tyler, but the use of her first name suggests that this is a friend younger than the Jewett sisters. Key to Correspondents. Other women named Augusta and living in South Berwick in 1877 include: Augusta A. Goodwin (1846-1932), Augusta Wadleigh, and Augusta Ferguson.

Freddy Neally ...his adored Jennie ... Maria Lord ... Mary Nealley ... Aunt [*Ben ?*]: MRJ seems to vary spelling between Neally and Nealley. Freddy is likely to be Fred Thomas Nealley (1855-1892). If this is the right person, then he did not marry "Jennie," who remains unidentified. He married Addie Estelle Mitchell (1861-1912). It is likely that Mary Nealley is his mother, a Jewett cousin, Mary Elizabeth Jewett.

The Lord family is so extensive that identifying any individual with certainty usually is quite difficult. "A. Maria Lord" is listed as a pupil of the Berwick Academy with the class of 1851.

Aunt Ben has not been identified. Whether she is a Nealley aunt, a Jewett aunt, or both, is not known.

Mrs. Knight: Probably, Jewett refers to Helen Caroline Cross Knight (1814-1906) of Portsmouth, NH. See *Life and Light for Woman* 37 (January 1907, pp. 33-4). Her sister, Charlotte Tilton Cross (1819-1903), was the second wife of Elisha H. Jewett (1816-1883), who was first cousin to Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett.

Lizzie Parks: This South Berwick friend of Jewett is mentioned in her 1869 diary, but nothing else is known about her. An Elizabeth C. Parks is listed in the Berwick Academy class of 1841. She may be Elizabeth Cutts Parks (1831-1918). Note however, that she is listed for the year in which she was 10 years old.

Mr. Kneeland: Possibly Dr. Wellington E. Kneeland (1858-1903). He married Ella M. Proal (1862-1951).

Mr William: This person is not yet identified, though it is possible Mary Jewett refers to her maternal uncle, William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

Aunt Longs: Mary Olivia Gilman Long. Key to Correspondents.

Cousin Freeland: A Jewett uncle on their father's side, Dr. Charles Cogswell Jewett, (1831-1884) married Annie Freeland (1841-1874). Their only known child was Freeland Jewett (1865-1937). He would have been 12 in 1877. Perhaps he is Cousin Freeland, though this has not yet been confirmed.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

[Yesterday *?*] in the fore

part of the day

[*10 March 1877*]*

Dear Sarah:

Your letter last night was very pleasant and you may imagine we were glad to get it. Your Ma has not yet returned and I do not know whether she is imminent today or not. She got Carrie to write to see if Father could come down to spend Sunday which he promptly declined doing as he had to go to New Market* this morning and several patients [*A line is faded nearly to invisibility; it may read:* are in various states of *unknown word.*] I do not think his mind is drawn toward Brunswick* at this time of year any way. I hope Mother will stay over Sunday, for she has hardly had a pleasant day since she went. I think Minnie* will stay here over Sunday, for

[*Page 2; an exceedingly faded page, and so a largely tentative transcription*]

which I am very glad. Frances* and I met in the street [*unreadable words*] in the rain, which [*unreadable words*] sounds very like the beginning of a game of Consequences,* and she asked me if I was at [*unreadable words*] Wednesday night & I told [*unreadable words*] whereupon she informed me that they were favored with a little prayer & demanded the makers name and was told Ella Ricker!* She said she stood bolt upright and put her hand over her eyes, and held forth. I told Mary Esther,* said Frances [*unreadable words*] speaking in meeting even [*unreadable words*] to! I do not know but what it is very [*unreadable words*] to tell all this, but you know my mind on that subject of old, [*unreadable words*] of the Rickers — I send [*unreadable words*] a copy of the new paper which

[*Page 3, a partly faded page, with much tentative transcription*]

has a poem by Madame R__.* Father was disgusted with me for thinking of sending it, but I thought it would amuse you to see the town gossip [*unreadable words*] have managed to pick up which you ever look upon [it. Bailey* is *?*] a literary man.

I did write to Georgie* the first of the week, and received a lovely note for reply the other day. Did I ever tell you that we saw Dr Chase's* death in the paper the other day [*two lines of mostly unreadable words*]. I might have known had I stopped to think. Emma's* clock came last night all night and is very satisfactory. You need not send those stockings for Father will not need them until you come. I think three pairs will be enough.

[*Page 4; a partly faded page, with much tentative transcription*]

I am going to send for [*unrecognized name or word*] this very day if I can get that Club list from Mrs Doe* this morning. At any rate if I cannot get the back numbers we can borrow them from Mrs Doe. Mrs Knight* told me the other day that it was [Mrs Gordon's *?*]* birthday. Was it really? Somehow since it has seemed to me that Mrs K must have made a mistake. Did I tell you that Mr. Kneeland* was to join the church last Sunday but it was so stormy that the Communion was put off until tomorrow?

There [*unreadable words*] done I believe and I must go and inspect it some time today or

Mrs Griffin* will think we are not showing a proper respect to the corpse.

I think you and Augusta* ought to give me the credit of bearing my cross of letter writing bravely, to say the least. Love to all at Ella's & Walnut St.* and to all others in authority.

[fro *?*] MRJ

Notes

The Columbia identification page indicates that the envelope associated with this letter was cancelled on 10 March. Though the year of 1877 is a guess, it has some foundation in that this letter seems to work rather well as the one to which Sarah Orne Jewett responds in her 15 March 1877 letter to Mary.

This letter appears to have been written in pencil, which shows very poorly in microfilm. As a result much of the transcription is guess-work.

New Market: Newmarket is a New Hampshire town about 14 miles south of South Berwick. That Dr. Jewett's practice took him this far from home suggests he served a large area.

Brunswick: Mrs. Jewett is presumably making a stay with her Gilman family relatives. See Charles Jervis Gilman in Key to Correspondents.

Minnie: Mary Walker Fisk. Key to Correspondents.

Frances: The identity of this person remains undiscovered.

game of Consequences: The parlor game of Consequences requires constructing a narrative based upon a list of circumstances generated by the players, each of whom chooses one item independent of the other players.

Ella Ricker: Two of Jewett's South Berwick neighbors were Maria Louisa deRochemont (Mrs. Shipley/Shepley Wilson) Ricker (1838-1921) and her daughter, Ella Wilson Ricker (1856-1928). Mr. Ricker (1827-1905) operated a fancy goods store in South Berwick.

At Resalvaged.com appears "Ella W. Ricker: The New England Poet the World Forgot," where Chelle Stein has gathered bits of information about her:

> Ella W. Ricker (July 7, 1856 - July 1, 1928) was a writer and poet from South Berwick, Maine. Her works frequently appeared in magazines and newspapers throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's. Most of her works were published under the name Ella W. Ricker, but an article published in *The Writer*, Volume 5, Issue 7 suggests that she may have used a pseudonym.

Stein cites two sources that indicate Ricker worked at the Fogg Memorial Library at the Berwick Academy: *Maine Register, State Year-book and Legislative Manual. United States*: Tower Publishing Company, 1914, page 1026, and *Patterson's American Education*, Volume 14. (1918). United States: Educational Directories., p 754. In both, Ricker is named as reporting the number of volumes contained in the library.

Mary Esther: In a letter of 20 June 1882 (from London) Jewett mentions learning of the death of Mary Esther. However, her identity remains unknown.

Madame R__: Mary Rice Jewett seems to refer to a gossipy poem in a local newspaper. Given the French name, it may be that MRJ refers to Ella Ricker's mother, Maria Louisa deRochemont (Mrs. Shipley/Shepley Wilson) Ricker. However, Ella Ricker, as noted above, became a widely published poet.

Bailey: This person remains unidentified. Was he connected with a newspaper?

Georgie: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

Dr. Chase's death: This may be Dr. Charles Chase (1792-1877), a retired U.S. Navy surgeon, who died 2 March 1877 and was buried in New York City. He was born in Kittery, York County, Maine, and, therefore, may have been a Jewett family acquaintance. He married Ann Maria Rice (1793-1865), also born in Maine, daughter of Alexander and Sarah Adams Rice, who *may* have been Jewett relatives. See also: Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 8 March 1877, p. 4.

Emma's clock: The "Emma" most often referenced in Jewett letters is Emma Harding Claflin, see Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin in Key to Correspondents. there is no evidence in this letter to suggest that Emma Claflin is staying in South Berwick at the time of this letter, it is possible that she has sent the family a clock. Other letters mentioning this Emma date from as early as 1877.

Club list ... Mrs Doe: Jewett may refer to the Berwick Women's Club. Richard Cary says:

> The Honorable Charles Doe (1830-1896), appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire at 29, retained his rustic clothes and manners during sessions. A raconteur of uncommon facility, he punctuated his stories with earth-born phrases and laconic flashes of philosophic insight. Behind his rugged humors lay a vast kindliness and tolerance.

His wife, Edith Haven Doe (1840-1922), formerly of Portsmouth, was the daughter of Mr. George Wallis Haven, and the stepsister of Georgia Halliburton. Of superior intelligence and engaging personality, she was renowned as a helpmeet and hostess. The Doe home at Rollinsford NH, a frequent anchorage for the Jewett sisters, was about a mile from their own.

Mrs. Knight: Probably, Jewett refers to Helen Caroline Cross Knight (1814-1906) of Portsmouth, NH. See *Life and Light for Woman* 37 (January 1907, pp. 33-4). Her sister, Charlotte Tilton Cross (1819-1903), was the second wife of Elisha H. Jewett (1816-1883), who was first cousin to Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett.

Mrs Gordon: Jewett is likely visiting Grace Gordon in Boston, at 5 Walnut Street, and it seems possible, if the transcription is correct, that Mary Jewett is wondering about the birthday of Grace Gordon's mother, Katherine Parker Gordon (19 March, 1804 - 22 November 1899), wife of the merchant, George William Gordon (1801-1877), who served as Boston postmaster and U.S. Consul at Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Kneeland: Possibly Dr. Wellington E. Kneeland (1858-1903). He married Ella M. Proal (1862-1951).

Mrs Griffin: This person remains unidentified. There was a Griffin Machine Works in neighboring Rollinsford, NH.

Augusta: This may be Augusta Maria Denny Tyler, but the use of her first name suggests that this is a friend younger than the Jewett sisters. Key to Correspondents.

Ella's & Walnut St.: Probably Ella Maria Walworth (Mrs. George Britton) Little and, at Walnut St., the Gordon household. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett
Fragment

Thursday night

15 March 1877

Dear Mary,

I was delighted to get your letter today and delighted Mrs. Gordon's* heart with it — I do think you write the best letters I know of — I have only time to write a few lines, but I thought you would like to know I saw the object of your affections today — dear Mrs. Ellis.* She was lovely as ever and I had a very nice time. There were several other people there at lunch but I saw a good deal of Mrs. Claflin* & Mrs. Ellis both. Mr. Whittier* was there but he is not well and after he talked to me a few minutes after lunch he went up stairs. Mrs. Ellis has had a real hard time. Addie* has not been out yet and Mary & Annie* have both been sick too. She

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talked a [considerble *so spelled*] about enjoying your visit and mentioned those two lubberly boys what sat round so she did not get good of her company! I called on "Kitty"* and went to see Nelly Whitehead* a few minutes — and then went to see Miss Preston* whom I had not seen for a week but alas she had gone out of town and at the Gordons I found a beautiful letter from her to say goodbye. Grace and I have not heard anything about Mrs. Burroughs* yet but we had our doubts, and may have a letter in the morning. I should like to have another day —

[*Manuscript ends. No signature.*]

Notes

Mrs. Gordon's … Grace: Grace Gordon, who will marry Rev. Treadwell Walden, and her mother, Katherine. See Correspondents.

Mrs. Ellis … Addie … Mary & Annie: For Emma Harding Claflin Ellis & her daughters, Mary and Annie, see Correspondents.

In a letter of 6 July 1879, Jewett indicates that this Addie may be male, which suggests this may be a nickname for Mary Claflin's son and Mrs. Ellis's half-brother, Adams Davenport Claflin (1862-1910).

Mrs. Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. See Correspondents.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. See Correspondents.

"Kitty": The identity of this person is not certain. In her 1869 diary, Jewett writes about enjoying the company of Kitty Richmond in Little Falls, New York. She also mentions Mrs Allan Richmond, who may Kitty's mother. Jewett writes of Kitty again in her January 1872 diary, noting that she saw her in Boston at Christmas in 1871.

Nelly Whitehead: Jewett in her diary mentions visiting Ellen Whitehead in South Berwick on 22 June 1869. It is possible that she is a daughter of the South Berwick tailor, Charles E. Whitehead (1817-1878) and Mary B. Whitehead (1826-1908).

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. See Correspondents.

Mrs. Burroughs: This may be Sarah Tilden Burroughs (1817-1906), spouse of Rev. Dr. Henry Burroughs (1815-1884), Rector of Christ Church, Boston in 1874.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Mary Rice Jewett 1847-1930, recipient, 40 letters; 1877-1892 & n.d. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255). Transcription and annotation with assistance from Tanner Brossart and Linda Heller.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ellen Mason* Fragment

[*March 1876*]*

Dear Ellen

Thank you for your letter which was a god-send the evening it came, as I had been very sorry all day thinking about my stories and wishing I were well — I have had another bad attack of rheumatism which is very discouraging, as I was feeling better and hoped to do a great deal this week. However, it is nearly over with now, and I am 'taking heart' once more — You don't know how much better I was for having your letter for there was something about it which at once made things seem easier — I was reading somewhere — in some

[*Page 2*]

journal of Father's I think: that there was some theory of a Color-cure* — based upon the well known fact that color influences many people very strongly — an exhilaration ^coming^ from bright scarlet and depression & that sort of thing from certain shades of blue — I believe~~d~~ it has been experimented upon — [by *written over* but] putting patients in suitably colored little rooms! — I have been thinking why some one doesn't suggest a 'treatment' for mental afflictions which could be called the 'friend cure{.}' One might spend so many hours a day with a friend who kept one quiet and solemn

[*Manuscript ends. No signature.*]

Notes

Mason: Almost certainly, this letter is addressed to Ellen Mason. Key to Correspondents.

As the Houghton catalog information below indicates, this is among a number of Jewett letters for whom the recipient has been thought to be American author, Mary Ellen Chase (1887-1973), who, according to Chase's introduction to *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (Norton), first met Jewett in 1900. See Chase in Key to Correspondents.

March 1876: This date is speculative, but there is support for it. In her correspondence of 1876, Jewett reports to Mason and others two severe and extended attacks of rheumatism, in January and again in March. This letter likely was written after the second.

Color-cure: Jewett anonymously published a short piece on this topic, "A Color Cure," in the March 1882 *Atlantic*, Contributors' Club column.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Box: 5 Identifier: MS Am 1743, (250), Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett. Chase, Ellen, recipient. 3 letters; 1876 & [n.d.], 1876.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

6 April 1877

Dear Anna

I am sorry to have been so neglectful of your letter which I was so glad to receive while I was in Concord. I have been meaning to write to you but when I tell you that on my return Tuesday afternoon I had more than twenty letters to write you will see that I have for some reason been obliged to neglect other friends as well as yourself! You see

[*Page 2*]

that in the first place I have not been at all well since I saw you in January and during the first four weeks of my seven weeks absence I was working harder than I ought on my proofs and other of <u>the</u> book's affairs* — and I could not attempt to do much else in the way of writing — —

But I am feeling somewhat better now, and I wish that you were here ^so^ that I could have a long talk with you — I should like to tell you of my visits in Concord and in Boston and in Exeter. So

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2

many pleasant things happened to me and I met so many delightful people and everybody was so kind! While I was at Ella's I saw your Mrs. Barnard and your niece Miss Ruth* — which was very pleasant. I had not seen Mrs. Barnard ~~except at~~ ^since^ Ella's wedding. I am so glad you said what you did to me about Alice:* I had [

some *corrected from* so much] very nice talks with the child and I never have been half so much interested in her before — but I think it is such a pity that Mr. Walworth objects to her

[*Page 4*]

being an Episcopalian — I think that is a question that one ought to be allowed to decide for oneself, do not you? and the atmosphere of Trinity church would do so much more for Alice than the atmosphere of Dr. Webb's church.* Besides, Ella's & Sallie's* going there will make a great difference — I said very little because of course it was not my business — and yet I am sometimes sorry and wish I had said something —- Isn't it wonderful the difference it makes in a girl's life like Alice's — this having ever so faraway and small an understanding of the

[*Page 5*]

3

better life in Christ, and ever so little knowledge of his companionship? I think she is wonderfully changed and I never cared half so much for her, did you? And as for Wallace* whom I never really knew before — I am so fond of him Anna! I am very glad to have known him. Mr. Brooks* said such pleasant things about him to me — and he seems to take a great deal of interest in him.

I enjoyed my visit at Ella's very much — and I wish you and I could have been together there. I really was not well enough to stay longer when

[*Page 6*]

I was there with you. I had dreadfully overtired and strained myself and it surprises me to count up now the immense amount of work I did without knowing it —— Would you like to know something about the book? It will be out in a week or two and you will know all about it for yourself, what kind of cover it has and what it looks like, outside and in. I hope you will like it, and may I ask you for one thing — you see a good many papers, and if you find any notices good or bad

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4

will not you cut them out and send them to me?

I do want to tell you about my visits! First I was in Concord working hard, and very unenergetic as to health and enjoying the delightful people to my hearts content. I saw a good deal of the Emersons particularly Miss Ellen* ^for^ whom I care more than ever, and of all the older people — this visit was more [in *?*] the houses whereas my others are associated with out-of-door Concord and the picnics &c — and the younger

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people — there were some theatricals and a good many tea parties & I was there two weeks: then I went to Grace Gordon's* and that weeks visit and my visit at Ella's & at the Kempton* &c took up nearly three weeks. Then Grace Gordon and I came down to Exeter together to make my aunt Mrs. Long* a visit, and we had such a good time! [And *?*] afterward I went to my grandfather* for ten days or so — But wouldn't I tell you all the particulars if I saw you. I must say good-bye — because it is dinner time. Mary* would send no end of love to you if she were here — What are you reading?

Yrs. sincerely

S.O.J.

Notes

book's affairs: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

your Mrs. Barnard and your niece Miss Ruth: Mrs. Barnard has not be identified.

Anna Dawes is unlikely to have had a literal niece. Her brother, Chester Mitchell (1855-1917) did not marry until 1880. Her youngest brother, Henry Laurens (1863-1928) was just 14 in 1877.

Though this has not been confirmed, a strong candidate for "Mrs. Barnard" is Helen M. Barnard, like Dawes, active in women's suffrage. Helen Barnard worked as a journalist for the New York *Herald*, and served the U. S. government in various capacities. The *Washington Times* of 22 July 1914 (p. 7) says that she was one of the first two female reporters allowed to attend and cover the United States Senate: "Later Mrs. Barnard, under Grant's Administration, was sent to Liverpool as immigration commissioner. She visited England, Ireland, and Scotland. She returned on the steerage of an ocean liner and gave one of the most interesting and useful reports made on the subject of immigration." The Los Angeles Herald of 27 May 1888 (p. 6) says: "Helen M. Barnard was, and is, a regal woman, earnest, thoughtful and profound. Her forte was politics, in which she displayed extraordinary sagacity. She is now a staid married woman, resides in New York City, and is editing a special monthly journal." The description of a letter of introduction by James A. Garfield, then an Ohio congressman, presenting her to E. B. Washburne, then U. S. Minister at Paris, France, says: "Barnard was a government clerk,

journalist, and an original member of the Universal Franchise Association, and an associate of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

Alice: Alice Drummond Walworth. See Ella Walworth Little in Correspondents.

Dr. Webb's church: In 1877, Rev. Edwin Bonaparte Webb, D.D. (1820-1901) was pastor of the Shawmut Congregational Church in Boston, where Caleb Clark Walworth was a member. See *The Missionary Herald* 97 (1901), p. 275, and Officers and Members of the Shawmut Congregational Church, Boston, January 1, 1881, p. 29.

One might note that Alice Walworth turned 20 in 1877. In 1881, her father was the sole family member listed among the Shawmut membership.

Sallie: Hollis identifies this person as Sallie French Bartlett. This is Sarah Flagg French Bartlett (1846-1883), sister of the American sculptor, Daniel Chester French. (1850-1931), who sculpted the Lincoln statue at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. She married Edward Jarvis Bartlett (1842-1914).

Wallace: Wallace Lincoln Pierce, who married Ella's sister, Stella in 1876. See Ella Walworth Little in Correspondents.

Mr. Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

the Emersons, particularly Miss Ellen: American writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) lived in Concord, MA, with his second wife, Lidian (Lydia) Jackson and their daughter, Ellen Tucker Emerson (1839-1909).

the Kempton: This reference remains a mystery.

Long: Aunt Mary Olivia Gilman Long . Key to Correspondents.

grandfather: In this case, Jewett's maternal grandfather, Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. See Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

South Berwick

[10 *or* 19 *?*] April 1877

My dear Mr. Osgood —

I think Deephaven* is very pretty — a great deal prettier than I had thought it was going to be! Don't you like it? I [like *corrected*] especially the little 'die' on the back* which I had not seen before —

I send you a notice which came from the Christian Union and the longer one from the N. Y. Herald. At least I suppose it came from that, for it is exactly the same type &c. Someone sent

2

it to me in a letter — Will you be good enough to keep it for me with the other notices, for I should like to save them — I think it would be a good plan to send an advance copy to the Cincinnati Gazette, to Mr. Perry* who is my uncle, and who ought to speak a good word for Deephaven, indeed I'm pretty sure he will! The paper has a large circulation in that part of the country. I find I appreciate my relationship to an Editor, in a marked degree just now! Was not a copy to be sent to the Advertiser early?* or to Miss Preston?* I know

[*Page 3*]

you told me that Mr. Whitney* spoke of some plan. I never have asked Miss Preston to write a notice — but I know her very well and if nothing has been arranged I will send her one of my copies and will ask [her *corrected*] ——- I should like the 25 copies very much and will you please have them sent by Goodwin's Ex.* 10 Court Square.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, 1877.

back: Richard Cary points out that this was "a triad of cat-tails in gilt on the spine of the first edition between her name and the publisher's device."

Perry: John Taylor Perry. See Sarah Chandler Perry in Correspondents.

Advertiser: Presumably, Jewett refers to the Boston Daily *Advertiser*.

Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. See Correspondents.

Mr. Whitney: Mr. Whitney's identity remains unknown It appears he was employed at James R. Osgood & Co.

Goodwin's Ex.: Goodwin Express, a New England delivery service founded by American War of 1812 veteran, Colonel William Goodwin (d. 1885). See The Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder, Volume 9 (1898), pp. 323-4.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

The letter was previously transcribed and annotated by Richard Cary for inclusion in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. He read Jewett's date as "April 9," but her handwriting seems to show one date written over another, with the numbers 10 and 19 visible. This does not mean that Cary is wrong; perhaps she wrote 10 over 9 or 9 over 10.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

———-

The Riverside Press

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

[*End letterhead*]

April 11, 1877

Dear Miss Jewett:

I have read Lady Ferry,* but though she was in many ways exquisite, I found her as indefensibly too long as she was too old. You have made too much of her, and I shouldn’t ^know^ how to suggest a reduction.

Yours sincerely

W. D. Howells

Notes

Lady Ferry: Jewett's story "Lady Ferry" never appeared in a magazine. Jewett included it in her 1879 collection, *Old Friends and New*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

24 April 1877*

My dear Prof. Parsons

Thank you for your kind note which I meant to answer before. I am very glad you like the book and I hope some time that you will tell me a great deal more about it. I should like so much to have a long talk with you this morning.

I suppose you must have seen some of the many great compliments which have been paid Deephaven* — I am more

[*Page 2*]

and more astonished at them and I am pleased — in a way — yet I must confess to you that I find it very hard to realize that this praise belongs to me and it all seems very vague when I try to 'take it in.' It seems almost a little sorrowful sometimes, when I think how I used to build castles in Spain about this very thing and now that I find the 'castles' in finer array even than I had expected. I dont care so very much for them after all! I beg you not to think that I am ungrateful, but

[*Page 3*]

the pleasure is such a different pleasure —

I have been very busy since I came home and not at all strong — I find that I do not get rested much — and the spring weather takes away the little bit of energy I had left — I wish I could see you — you do not know how much I enjoyed my long call upon you that rainy day — or how much I learned — I wonder if you are to be anywhere in this region in the summer?

I wonder if Miss Sabra* has read <u>Deephaven</u> and if she likes it at all? I was so sorry not

[*Page 4*]

to see more of her — [Wont *?*] you please give my love to her?

— I am going to read more this spring for I have had so little time this winter — and just now I am reading again some translations of the Greek Tragedies — Eschylus and Sophocles. I have always liked Antigone* and that was the only one I knew much —

<u>2 May</u> — I would not have believed that this letter would be so many days unfinished and it does not look as if I had been thinking of you a great deal every day — which I have! I am either very busy or <u>very</u> lazy nowadays and I am quite distracted

[*Page 5*]

2

when I think of all the letters I wish to write —

I wonder if you noticed in Deephaven the additions to the chapter called In Shadow — Perhaps you remember that it was shortened in the Atlantic, & I was sorry about it — I rewrote it for the book — I dont know that my chief thought in Deephaven is very evident — but I think I tried most, to show the truth of what 'Kate' says on page 244 — that success and happiness are not things of chance but of choice — and they might so easily have had a dull summer — It was certainly not at all the kind of place that most young ladies would enjoy for their summer's campaign — but didn't they have a good time!

[*Page 6*]

And there is another thing. I wished to show how interested they became in the town's people, and how interesting [these *corrected*] ^people^ were. I am so sorry for girls who are shut up in their own set of society — I should be so glad if [anybody *corrected*] had a better time in the country this summer because she had read Deephaven! I wonder which chapters you like best?

— There is something — to change the subject abruptly — which I wish to ask you — and that is what it means about Elisha and the children who called him names and the bears who devoured them.* It was the Sunday school lesson a while ago, and it was very hard to understand — I never had thought of it before — but the punishment

[*Page 7*]

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seemed out of proportion to the [offence *so spelled*] — I have been meaning to ask you about it — I am always wishing I could ask you what the Sunday school lesson means! I wonder if I have told you lately about my class? I am more and more interested in it and lately I have had some new scholars whom I like and wish to help very much. I get frightened at the thought of my attempting to teach those girls, but I do the best I can — They're about twenty years old (or in that region) and they are very bright — and all girls who have a good deal of influence here —

I wish I could write longer but it is time to take my letter to the post.

[*Page 8*]

I always have so much to tell you and more to ask you. I wish I could see you. Goodbye, from your aff. and grateful

S. O. J.

I suppose you had a note from Ellen herself,* but I believe I never have told you how delighted she was at your remembrance of her and your sending your book to her —

Notes

1877: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, canceled in South Berwick on 3 May.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

Miss Sabra: Ancestry.com lists Mary Sabra Parsons as a daughter of Theophilus Greenleaf Parsons and Catherine Amory Chandler, born on 6 August 1842 in Taunton, MA. Findagrave.com dates her death as 16 October 1910. She is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.

Eschylus and Sophocles ... Antigone: Wikipedia says: "Aeschylus ... (c. 525/524 – c. 456/455 BC) was an ancient Greek tragedian." *The Persians* and the *Oresteia* trilogy. Wikipedia also says: "Sophocles ... is one of three ancient Greek tragedians whose plays have survived. His first plays were written later than those of Aeschylus, and earlier than or contemporary with those of Euripides. Sophocles wrote 120 plays during the course of his life, but only seven have survived in a complete form," including *Antigone*, which is one of a group of plays concerning the family of Oedipus.

Elisha ... children ... the bears: This story is found in 2 Kings 2: 23-25.

Ellen herself: It is likely this is Jewett's close friend, Ellen Frances Mason. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

John Taylor Perry* to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*, *underlined portions handwritten*]

Gazette Editorial Rooms.

Cincinnati, May 2. 1877.*

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Sally —

I have looked into all the [papers *?*] that I see, & have asked the men to cut out from the exchanges they read, all the notices they find of Deephaven.* They haven't kept their promises very well or the papers are rather slow in their publication of reviews. Most of those I include you doubtless have seen, but duplicates won't hurt you. That of the N.Y. Times is the only ill-tempered one of the lot — I think you are succeeding well, better than a [young *corrected*] author known mainly by the Boston circle could expect. Though not better than you deserve.

[Yours in best Regards to all *So it appears*]

J.T.P.

[*Up the left margin*]

You will no doubt find a lot of criticism in the papers sent to Osgood* & I will try to see that more are collected here than have been.

Notes

Perry: See Sarah Chandler Perry in Key to Correspondents.

1877: Perry has written the final 7 over a 6 in the letterhead.

Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, ME, on Cincinnati *Gazette* stationery, canceled on 2 May.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, which had recently appeared at the time of this letter.

Osgood: The Boston publisher of *Deephaven*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 177. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Harriet Waters Preston
Fragments*

South Berwick

5 May 1877

Dear Miss Preston

I dont know whether you think it is respectful of me to write you on half-sheets but this is my pet paper and I am bankrupt on [whole *corrected*] sheets of it —

[*Page 2*]

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and it is about Deephaven.* Perhaps it will be better to wait until I see you, but I hope you will tell me the faults of it. I think it is beautiful to be praised and it helps one of course. I know you said in your first letter to me that perhaps your belief ^in me^ would help [*deletion*] me, and you do not know how wonderfully true that has been, dear Miss Preston. But honest criticism helps one so very much, and do not ever be afraid to scold at me [or *corrected*] to say anything you please. I love you so much and I cant get over that dear feeling that I belong to you, and wont you talk to me and teach me and tell me where I am wrong? —— I am finding out as I grow older, that I am very young about many things —

[*Page 3*]

and in spite of this I am used to taking [care *corrected*] of myself and all that sort of thing and putting those two things together sometimes brings an unhappy result. I dont believe in analyzing myself too much and I have found out that

[*Breaks off.*]

[*Page 4*]

and I am going to begin the grammar and try with humble diligence to remember it and really know something this time. I am getting so much interested in that memoir of Kingsley* which you [wrote *corrected*] me about — not that I am reading yet

[*Breaks off.*]

Notes

fragments: Though these pages do not present a full sequence, all are written in the same blue ink on half sheets and, therefore, seem likely to be from unsent drafts of the same letter. There is some evidence in the notes below that all the parts were written in 1877.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in 1877.

Kingsley: Probably refers to British clergyman, educator and author, Charles Kingsley (1819-1875). His widow, Frances Eliza Grenfell, published a biography soon after his death, *Charles Kingsley, his Letters and Memories of his Life* (1877).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 274.

Helen D. Sewall to Sarah Orne Jewett

6 Chester Sq.

May 8, 1877.

My dear Miss Jewett:

As I am not a writer for that public organ known as the Press, and can not spread your praises abroad by [forestalling *?*] public opinion in that way, allow me to have the satisfaction of whispering in your ear how much I enjoyed your Deephaven* sketches

[*Page 2*]

and admired the kindly, sympathetic spirit with which their author views the world. It is all just as real as can be, and [helps one *?*] toward that perfection of living, the "finding" good in everything,* which, I trust, may always in large measure be yours.

Truly Yours

Helen D. Sewall.

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in 1877.

everything: Sewall's marks are ambiguous at this point. She appears to have written a period after "everything" and after it a small mark above the base line that may be accidental. It appears that she intended a comma, and this is how I have rendered her punctuation.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 044.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charles Ashburton Gilman

South Berwick

9 May 1877

My dear Charlie

I have just come home from a very pleasant day in Portsmouth with Miss Halliburton,* who told me to tell you with her kind regards how very sorry she was to miss your call yesterday. I am so sorry too that you did not see her, for I know

[*Page 2*]

you would have had a pleasant call — and have certainly found her very glad to see you.

We went to Newcastle today and had such a jolly time, I wish you had been with us — It is not nice weather for a picnic, but we went to a house which Mr. Haven* owns and had a big fire

[*Page 3*]

in a fireplace and a very good time — with a walk along the rocks and beach after dinner —

I hope you had a good time in Boston and you must tell me about it. I received your postal card and should have answered, but I have been busy and there was not very much news — I have

[*Page 4*]

nearly finished the survey of the Sunday-school books: the new ones have been very entertaining for we have had them here in the dining-room for a week or two — I gave Susy Jewett* your good-bye message, and she was sorry not to have seen you again, & said many pleasant things about you. Carrie* is better but not nearly well yet. We all enjoyed your visit and you don't know how much I missed you Charlie!*

With love to Cousin Fanny.*

Yours always sincerely & affly, Sarah.

Notes

Miss Halliburton: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

*Have*n: George Wallis Haven. Key to Correspondents.

Susy Jewett: Richard Cary identifies her as Susan Jameson Jewett of South Berwick, the daughter of Elisha Hanson Jewett .

Carrie: Caroline Augusta Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Charlie: Richard Cary notes:

The next day Miss Jewett wrote to Anna Laurens Dawes about her cousin: "He's such a nice fellow, and we are great friends. I used not to like him, and it is delightful to find him so nice as he grows up. He would not thank me for giving you the impression that he is young. It falls very sweet upon his ear to be called Mr. Gilman and I never shall tell that he is at home an underrated younger brother and only 'Charley.' " And on October 11: "I made a little visit down at Brunswick and had a lovely time with my young cousin Charley — dear little fellow (or big fellow!). He has grown so this summer and he is trying very hard to be a good man." (Manuscript Division, Library of Congress)

Cousin Fanny: Frances F. Perry. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. Richard Cary's transcription is in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett.*

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

10 May 1877

My dear Anna

I have enjoyed your letter very much and have wished to answer it but you will not ask for any apologies I'm sure and so I will save all the room they would take — I only wish I could see you today — It is a lovely Sunday afternoon and we would walk a while and sit down in the first acceptable and lonely place we reached. I think I should [take *written over* talk *?*] you to the top of the hill which is not a great climb and where you would be happy because of the view, as I always am. I truly wish I could see you — I am beginning at last to feel as if I were in my right mind, though I am not wholly rested yet. My younger sister* has been very ill, and we have

[*Page 2*]

had visitors and Deephaven* gives me a good deal of work in one way or another —- What a busy world this is, Dawes-y! and you see I began by making it a lazy world with no need for hurry. In the first place I am very glad you like Deephaven. I should have been very sorry if you had not liked it. It amazes me to find out how much the reviews have praised it and it goes straight to my heart to have succeeded in pleasing my dear friends. I should say a great deal about this if you were here, and tell you that the very success has frightened me and humbled me and made me feel very inadequate, and how hard it is even not to be cowardly. It has not been [wholly *corrected*] pleasure, this success which I seem to have — though there is so much pleasure — It is very hard

[*Page 3*]

for me 'to take it in' that all the praise is meant for me — indeed I believe I am somehow hindered from taking it in — except in the very vaguest way. Sometimes I have been very sorry because I do not feel more pleased and set up — Can you understand that feeling? I should not have dared tell it you otherwise. But dear, isn't it a tremendous thing to be put into one's hands and can a girl help feeling that she is living a more conspicuous sort of life, and that is frightful to think what a little bad influence will do. —

Ah well! does not one grow more and more thankful that there is a strength that never fails and a wisdom that never is found wanting

[*Page 3*]

and a Love that is always ours; and that the Best Friend* may be your own friend and mine —

And just now I caught myself thinking of Alice* and how true and sensible your idea of her is — I will write to her certainly — I hope she is on the right road and I liked very much the way she spoke of better things. I have had no time to write her lately. I have been terribly in debt for letters and I cannot yet write long at a time. Sometimes it seems to me that taking care of my letters is enough for one girl and I am sorry when I have to neglect them — You see I have much more to take up my time in town and home affairs than I did at one

[*Page 4*]

time — Then my friendships and out-of-town interests were almost everything. I am as much interested in my Sunday School class as you can imagine. I have six girls of about twenty — and they are very bright, and girls who have and will always have a good deal of influence among their different sets of friends — I enjoy them very much and since I long with all my heart to help them and to do them good I can't believe I shall wholly fail. I wish very much to read that life of Kingsley.* Miss Preston is Mrs.Goddard's friend* & she wrote me about it much as Mrs. Goddard did you. I met Mrs.

[*Page 5*]

Goddard once this winter for a few minutes and like her so much. I do hope I shall see her again sometime or other. Miss Preston says a great deal about her. I have hardly read at all lately except a great many Sunday School books, for I have been recataloguing and adding to the Sunday School library — I have been at work off and on for three weeks and today it was all in order. I am quite proud of it for though I have had some help, I have really managed everything — It has been a good deal of work and I am glad to be nearly done for nothing is left now but to see to some

[*Page 6*]

printing — One day this week I have spent with [Georgie *corrected*] Halliburton* and she was in town the week before — We have had visitors off and on and I do a little of everything — I am enjoying my friendship with Miss Preston more and more — I must tell you a great deal about

her sometime. She has such a generous way of looking at things, and she has come to me just the right time as all my friends have — I will certainly tell you of my Concord visit some day; it seems a year ago now, that I was there — I had a very nice time but I was miserably tired and used up, as I have told you.

I must say good bye dear. I have promised to go for a walk with

[*Page 7*]

a young cousin* who is staying with us and he has waited so uncomplainingly that I must start soon — He's such a nice fellow — and we are great friends. I used not to like him, and it is delightful to find him so nice as he grows up. He would not thank me for giving you the impression that he is young — It falls very sweet upon his ear to be called Mr. Gilman* and I never shall tell that he is at home an underrated younger brother and only 'Charley' — Don't be afraid, your letters are never too long dear Dawes-y.

Think of how much we should say if we were together and how short the longest letter is compared with that! And I am always so glad to hear from you. Mary* sends no end of love and says she looks

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 4*]

upon the length of your letters with longing eyes. Thank you for your friendship which is very much beloved and thought of! and I say God bless you and help you most heartily — and am your fond friend —

S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

Thank you for the extracts which I passed on to Ellen Mason* — for I knew she would like them. I dont mean I lightly gave away those you gave me!

Notes

younger sister: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

Best Friend: Jewett's capitalization indicates that she refers to God or to Jesus.

Alice: Almost certainly, Alice Drummond Walworth. See Ella Walworth Little in Key to Correspondents.

Kingsley: British author and clergyman Charles Kingsley (1819-1875). Hollis says the recommended book probably was *Charles Kingsley, His Letters and Memories of His Life* (1877).

Miss Preston is Mrs. Goddard's friend: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Preston Waters, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874).

Georgie Halliburton: Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*"* *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Helen Bell* to Sarah Orne Jewett

London — May 19th 1877 —

My dear Sarah —

I was very glad to hear from you last week — & to see the notices of your book.* I am sure nothing could be more satisfactory, & I congratulate you most heartily on your success — I wish I could see the book, but it will be only a short time now before I shall be at home, & that will be the first thing I read — It is hard for me to realize that I have little more than six weeks left before we sail — it will go all too soon — & I have much to see & do — It is nearly three weeks since we came to

[*Page 2*]

London, & we have been so busy! Every day we have [done *?*] something & we go to bed at night, exhausted yet happy — I do like this wonderful old city, more & more — It is great fun to ramble off not knowing where you will "fetch up" — We have seen almost everything in the city itself but there are several excursions to make — It has rained more than a week — except one day & that has interfered with all our arrangements — It gets so fearfully muddy in a short time, that walking is out of the question — But the Hansome cabs are my delight, & we are sure of riding in one, every day. Our visit to the Tower* was among the most interesting things we have done — The officers or [guides *?*]

[*Page 3*]

are the celebrated "beefeaters"* — in the costume of the time of Henry the Eighth* — it is very curious — we saw the [window *?*] of the room where the little Princes were murdered, & the place under the [stone *?*] where their bodies were found — Then we went into the dark cell where Sir Walter Raleigh* was imprisoned — There is a fine collection of armor both ancient and modern — the crown jewels are kept in the Tower, but they were not by any means equal to those we saw in Vienna* — There are some fine paintings in the National Gallery — some beautiful Gainsboroughs — & some very good Sir Joshuas' — one room is entirely filled with Turners* works — & some of them are the most singular things you ever beheld — they look as

[*Page 4*]

{if} he had spread great patches of all [colors *corrected*] on the canvas, & then taken a brush & mixed them all together — Some of the Landseers* pictures are fine{.} I like him better than I expected — one room filled with paintings ^of^ ~~of~~ the Dutch School, is delightful — of course there are the usual amount of the early efforts in Italy, the Netherlands, etc — I find one or two interesting, the rest are wearisome — We went to see Miss Thompson's pictures one day — all are battle pieces — [Inkermann *so it appears*] Quatre Bras. Balaclava, etc — Painful subjects, but most faithfully executed — There are lovely water colors in one or two collections — Mrs Bell* wants me to be sure to tell you that in one of the collections

[*Page 5*]

of china here, she has seen Elijah & the ravens, & the widow* — I have been twice to the British museum — I find the autographs, & the intaglios in the gem room best of anything. Oh, we went to Madame Tussauds* one day — & it was too funny — I did not find the wax figures so deceptive as I expected — they all looked <u>waxy</u> — we ought to have gone in the evening, but we heard that it was always lighted by gas, [only *?*] in night, so we went in the afternoon — I liked it, because it gave some [idea *?*] of the ancient Kings & Queens at any rate, their costumes — Henry the Eighth, surrounded by his six unhappy consorts, formed one group — He was a jolly [king *?*] evidently — Louis 16th, Marie Antoinette, etc. Mary of Scotland

[*Page 6*]

[*unrecognized name*], etc — All the Kings from William the Conqueror down to the present day — & many of the Queens were there — we went into the Chamber of Horrors — it is all sham — I never shook in my shoes once — I examined the real guillotine closely, & stood over the effigy of Marat in his bath, covered with blood — Napoleon the Third, lies in state ^after death^ in one room — a woman near us remarked that "that was the most lifelike of them all" —- She was evidently an [Irish *?*] woman{.} We went out to the Crystal Palace* one day — it was hardly up to our expectations — some of the Courts were very fine — the Alhambra was specially rich. We went over the Houses of Parliament one day — & Westminster Abbey — that is everything we could possibly ask for — I want

[*Page 7*]

to go again — We attempted to hear Dean Stanley* preach there Ascension Day - but the crowd was immense, & our seats were too far for us to hear anything, except the music — Last Sunday, Persis* & I want to St. Andrews* — a <u>very</u> High Church — the music was lovely, & so it was at the old Temple Church — that comes next in interest to Westminster, I think — I like St Pauls very much too — We mean to go to Hampton Court the first fine day — & to Windsor — the Queen* having just left it for Scotland — Tuesday week, we leave London for Leamington, spending a day or so at Oxford on the way — We shall make that our headquarters for a fortnight, & then go to Scotland. After that we take the Lakes* before going to

[*Page 8*]

Liverpool — We have not seen many nice people here — I mean Americans — the house is filled with them, only one English person here — but they are not all we could desire — Alas my countrymen, why will you disgrace yourselves so utterly? Persis & I went to a Five o'clock Tea, with some English friends near us — it was great fun — I am so sorry that Carrie* has been so ill — I hope she is much better now — I wish she might recover so speedily as Persis did, from that fearful disease — Give her my warmest love, please — Oh, have you heard yet that our dear Leo is really engaged to Eugenia Radcliff? Is it not perfectly splendid — we are almost as happy over it, as they are — It was so [lovely *?*] to see them — Do please write to the last, anything sent before the 18th of June, will reach us — My love to your mother & Mary,* & regards to your Father —

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

[We all]* send much love to you as usual — always very affectionately

Herring —

I am looking forward to the Beach next summer, when we shall all be together again — What larks!* You must all get very strong & well for that time —

Notes

Helen Bell: Though the signature on this letter appears to read "Hennig," almost certainly it is "Herring," a nickname for Jewett's cousin, Helen / Nellie Bell, step-daughter of Aunt Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell (Key to Correspondents). Mentioned in this letter is her sister, Mary Persis Bell, called Persis. This family is complicated.

- Helen and Persis's father was married twice, and they are children of his first marriage.
- His second marriage was to Mary E. G. Bell.
- Mary E. G. Bell also married twice, and among the children of her first marriage was Edward H. Gilman, and one of his children was Jennie Lois Crosby Gilman.

A main piece of supporting evidence for Helen Bell's authorship is her passport application of May 1876, co-signed by her aunt, Mary O. Long (Key to Correspondents). The application expresses her intention of traveling to Europe. This may be viewed at FamilySearch. A problem with this speculation is that she refers to her step-mother as Mrs. Bell rather than as "Mother."

See Sarah Orne Jewett and others to Mellen Chamberlain of July 1875.

Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett, c/o Dr. Jewett in South Berwick, postmarked in London on 21 May.

book: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

tower: The Tower of London.

"beefeaters": The popular name for the Yeoman Warders, ceremonial guards at the Tower of London. Wikipedia.

Henry the Eighth: King Henry VIII of England (1491-1547). He is remembered in part for marrying six women in succession, striving unsuccessfully to produce a male heir.

Princes ... Sir Walter Raleigh: The famous princes were, Edward and Richard, the two sons of King Edward IV of England. According to Wikipedia, their fate is not known, but it is presumed that they were murdered in the Tower of London in 1483 by their uncle, King Richard III (1452-1485), as depicted in William Shakespeare's play, *Richard III*.

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618) was an English statesman, soldier, explorer and writer. Wikipedia says that Queen Elizabeth I briefly imprisoned him and his wife in the Tower of London after they married without her permission.

jewels ... Vienna: The English Crown jewels remain on display in the Tower of London, where they are kept except when in use for royal ceremonial occasions. The Austrian Crown jewels are in the Imperial Treasury at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. In 1877, they would have been used for ceremonial occasions involving the Emperor of Austria. See Wikipedia.

Gainsboroughs ... Sir Joshuas' ... Turners: The letter refers to three major English painters: Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788), Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792), Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851). See Wikipedia.

Landseers: English painter and sculptor, Sir Edwin Henry Landseer (1802-1873).

Miss Thompson's pictures: Elizabeth Southerden Thompson (1846-1933) was an English painter who specialized in depicting famous British military scenes. Among these were: "The 28th Regiment at Quatre Bras (1875), "Balaclava" (1876), "The Return from Inkerman" (1877). Wikipedia.

Mrs Bell: Probably this is Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell (Key to Correspondents).

Elijah: Elijah was a Hebrew prophet portrayed in the Bible, Books of Kings. In that account, as traditionally understood, Elijah when in hiding and hungry is miraculously fed by ravens. After this event he is sheltered by the Widow of Zarephath, where he has occasion to raise her son from the dead (1 Kings 17).

Tussauds: Madame Tussauds wax museum in London, a famous tourist attraction, featured life-sized wax sculptures of famous people from history and fiction. It was founded in 1835. Wikipedia says that one of the main attractions of the museum was the Chamber of Horrors, showing victims of the French Revolution as well as murderers and other notorious criminals.

Among the victims of the French Revolution were King Louis XVI of France (1754-1793) and his wife, Marie Antoinette. Jean-Paul Marat (1743-1793) also died during the revolution, assassinated rather than executed.

Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587) was executed for treason.

Other sculptures the author notes are of William the Conqueror, King William I of England (1028-1087), and the former Emperor of France, Napoleon III (1808-1873), who was deposed in 1870.

Crystal Palace: The Crystal Palace was built in 1851 to house the Great Exhibition of that year.

It stood in Hyde Park until 1936, when it burned. Wikipedia.

Dean Stanley ... Ascension Day: Arthur Penrhyn Stanley (1815-1881) was an English Anglican priest and historian. He achieved fame as a preacher as well as for his work in theology and ecclesiastic history. He became Dean of Westminster Abbey in 1863.

The Feast of the Ascension celebrates the ascension of Christ into Heaven after his resurrection. It is officially dated as the 40th day after Easter, but often is observed the following Sunday. Wikipedia. In 1877, Ascension Day was Thursday 10 May.

Persis: Persis and Helen Bell were sisters. Key to Correspondents, Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell.

St. Andrews ... Temple Church ... St. Pauls: Churches in London. See Wikipedia for Temple and St. Paul's. Wikipedia lists more than a dozen St. Andrew's churches in London, though not all are Anglican. It would seem likely that Americans would be interested in St. Andrew's, Croydon, formerly the Church of St. Andrew.

Hampton ... Windsor ... the Queen: In 1877, Queen Victoria (1819-1901) occupied the English Throne. Among the royal residences she used were Windsor Castle in Berkshire and Hampton Court Palace in Richmond, near London. Wikipedia.

Carrie: Caroline Jewett, later Eastman, Sarah Orne Jewett's younger sister. Key to Correspondents.

Leo ... Eugenia Radcliff: These persons have not yet been identified.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

What larks!: Probably the writer alludes to *Great Expectations* (1861) a novel by English author, Charles Dickens (1812-1870). Joe Gargary, one of the main characters, often repeats this phrase.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Hennig [?] 1 letter; 1877. (92).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Harriet Waters Preston
Fragment

South Berwick

23 May 1877

Dear Miss Preston I have been having such a good time today with the drollest old woman, an old patient of father's from Eliot who hasn't been to see us for some time before — Father was away and she stayed to dinner and I have just conveyed her and her bundles down to the bank — Such toggery as she wore! I regret to say that she is too stingy [to *corrected*] to buy herself a 'front'* and she had a grass green veil round her head under a cap which was brave with bright purple ribbons. She prides herself on having 'means' and being beholden to nobody, and I just wish you could have heard her

[*Page 2*]

edifying conversation — The first thing she said after we sat down this morning was Have there been many deaths [in *?*] the place lately — And then she gave full particulars [of her *corrected*] being in Portsmouth and she always likes to go early ^to the depot^ because sometimes the cars come along before you expect them — and she met a Second Advent* woman. She never had seen one before but she appeared as well as anyone she ever see! — We had a great conversation on the subject of herb teas — which diverted Carrie* beyond measure. At dinner-time she was asking Mother about our matrimonial prospects and you would have been pleased when you heard

[*Page 3*]

me solemnly say I thought it was a great risk — and she responded that she thought so too —

[*Manuscript ends. No signature.*]*

Notes

'front': Probably, Jewett refers to a hairpiece designed to disguise a receding hairline. See Jewett's short story, "The Dulham Ladies" (1886).

Second Advent: Belief that Jesus Christ will return to Earth at some future date, after his resurrection and ascension to Heaven not long after his death, is common to nearly all Christian denominations. It is, therefore, somewhat difficult to know to which denomination Jewett's visitor refers. In the late 19th century, three denominations in particular gave particular emphasis to the imminent second advent: the Latter Day Saints, Seventh-day Adventists, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Carrie: Jewett's younger sister, Carrie Jewett Eastman, who at the time of this letter was not yet married. Key to Correspondents.

No signature: That Jewett apparently did not send this letter is suggestive. The piece shows Jewett collecting a character, and it is possible that she wanted to reserve this material for later use in her own fiction. However, she very rarely says anything in her correspondence that might be considered ungenerous. Perhaps she kept this letter back out of concern that this old friend might somehow see it someday and feel hurt.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 274.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Samuel Thomas Pickard

South Berwick

28 May 1877

My dear Sir

I received your very kind note of May 22nd on Saturday evening, and wish to thank you most heartily for your thoughtfulness in telling me what Mr. Whittier said of Deephaven* — I need

[*Page 2*]

hardly tell you how much pleasure it gives me to know that he likes the book, and it is a great satisfaction to be able to return a little bit of the great debt I owe him — for I have been enjoying what he has written — ever since I

[*Page 3*]

can remember enjoying any books. I saw him two or three times in Boston last winter just before Deephaven came out. I remember that one day at Mr. Osgood's I was choosing the color for the cover and I was so glad when Mr. Whittier liked my own favorite best.

[*Page 4*]

But did not remember until afterward that it was perfectly natural he should like the gray! —

Thank you again for your kindness — believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Mr. S. T. Pickard

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in 1877. See John Greenleaf Whittier to Jewett of 24 July 1877 and Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909, MS Am 1844, Box 9, item 537.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

South Berwick

31 May 1877*

Dear Mr. Osgood

Thank you for the little book and the notices which came all right. I am glad to find that the newspapers are so good-natured. Some day when you are not busy (though perhaps that day never comes!) would you please tell me if ~~the~~ Deephaven* is selling well? I think these 'puffs' must

[*Page 2*]

have had some effect — I suppose it is time now to know something about the success of it — or is it too soon? I saw in one or two papers that it reached a second edition* within a fortnight. Was that true? I am not [and *or* in *?*] the way of knowing much about it here, you see — and I should be very glad if you would tell me — some day when you can as well as not.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

1877: Penciled notes appear at the top of page 1.

Top left corner, inside a "box" with a bottom and right line: Mentions "Deephaven"

Right margin between South Berwick and the date: Maine

Above the salutation: Sara Orne Jewett

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

second edition: These words may be capitalized.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

Ida Agassiz Higginson to Sarah Orne Jewett

Newport. May 31st

[*1877*]*

My dear Mifs Jewett —

I have been wanting to write you & thank you for your delicious little book — if I can say enough — for it is [to me *?*] a wonderful little volume* — It reminds me slightly of "Cranford"

[*Page 2*]

but I think is very superior to it — for so much is made out of such slight material — One sees & smells the ocean — & the dear old fishermen! — for of course every one with a heart loves a sailor — I enjoyed the descript-

[*Page 3*]

tion of the old church more than almost any thing, for it took one back so to an old inland church I used to go to — & have longed for years to describe — you give the Yankee talk wonderfully well — not the least exaggeration & with so much

[*Page 4*]

ease — & an ever [present *?*] respect ~~with~~ which one seldom sees in sketching yankees. Dr. Holmes* for instance [just as well *?*] treats them as you do — And the old [farmers *?*] & old [women *?*] & all are perfection{.} Perhaps I have worried you with praise — if so for-

[*Across the top margin of page 1*]

give me — Perhaps you will write me a line — Col. H. enjoyed your book very much —

Yrs Sincerely

Mrs. I. Higginson

[*Cross-written up the left half of page 4*]

I felt very much the exquisite prose of [it also *?*] — [*unrecognized words*] in their American [*unrecognized word*]{.}

Notes

1877: Jewett responds to this letter in hers to Higginson, dated 2 June 1877.

volume: Higginson refers to Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

She compares it to another novel, *Cranford* (1851-53), by British author, Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865). Wikipedia.

Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 2, Item 94 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ida Agassiz Higginson

South Berwick, Maine

2 June 1877

My dear Mrs. Higginson

You have not the least idea how much pleasure your letter has given me. Thank you with all my heart for your kindness in writing to me. I hoped you would like little Deephaven,* but I do not know what to say when you give it such high praise. — I am very glad to have

[*Page 2*]

pleased you — that is certain! It is all vague enough when I read about the book in the newspapers but it is a real delight to know that my friends like what I have done, and some of the letters which have come to me lately I shall always keep among my dearest treasures —

You said one thing in your letter which made me very glad; that you thought I had not made country people ridiculous. I should have been so sorry if I had done that, for I have always

[*Page 3*]

liked my out-door life best, and in driving about ever since I can remember with my father, who is a doctor, I have grown more and more fond of the old-fashioned country-folks. I have always known their ways and I like to be with them. Deephaven is not the result of careful study during one "summer's vacation," as some persons have thought, but I could write it because it is the fashion of life with which I have always been familiar. I think no part of New England can possibly have kept more

[*Page 4*]

of the last century's way of [thinking *damaged page corner*] and speaking than this — Berwick itself is growing and flourishing in a way that breaks my heart, but out from the village among the hills and near the sea there are still the quietest farms — where I see little change from one year to another — and the people would delight your heart. ——- And as for the sailors; I have always known them. Nobody know how I love the sea, and many of my friends have been and are sailors in either the navy or

[*Page 5*]

the merchant service and until a few years ago we had much to do with ships. When I was a child the captains used to come to see my

grandfather* and I thought if I could go off on a voyage I should be perfectly happy —

Deephaven seems as real to me as Berwick or Newport. I know all the roads and all the houses there, and I believe I could answer all the questions about it that

[*Page 6*]

anyone could ask —

I beg your pardon for this letter dear Mrs. Higginson, because it is altogether too long. I wished to write you at once — and I think of so many things to say. I have always remembered my two calls with the greatest pleasure. Please let me thank you again for your kindness and interest — and believe that I am always yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, published in 1877.

grandfather: Cary writes,

Theodore Furber Jewett, "a citizen of the whole geography," led a life of affairs and hazards which appealed to Miss Jewett's early romantic drift. Bound out as a boy, he ran away and shipped aboard a whaler. With only two companions, he was left for over eight months on an uninhabited island in the Pacific Ocean to guard stores and secure seals. He returned to New England, became a sea captain, ran a vessel to the West Indies at the height of the Embargo, was captured by the British and confined on the infamous Dartmoor Prison Ship. He turned to the less turbulent occupation of shipbuilding, married four times, and finally retired as a merchant. In his declining years he maintained the "W. I. Store" on Main Street in South Berwick, a multifarious general store replete with potbelly stove and cracker barrel. Here gathered daily the Captain's cronies, veterans of the seven seas, to spin the prodigious yarns which the child Sarah absorbed with undiminishing wonder.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12. Photocopies are held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 and the Maine Women Writers Collection.

With this manuscript is another page that is presumably associated with the letter, folded, with a water stain on each page. The left leaf has the following in pencil: $15^{\underline{00}}$ sytf 736. The right leaf has this in pencil: "Miss Jewett "Deephaven." One could speculate that this sheet contained the letter when it was offered for sale.

The letter has been transcribed previously by Richard Cary for inclusion in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*, and by Burton Trafton, for inclusion in the Maine Women Writers Collection, Burton Trafton Research Collection of transcriptions from mixed repositories, letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63. These and the New transcription here vary in details of punctuation and in some readings of individual words. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to W. L. Sawyer*

South Berwick

6 June 1877

Dear Sir

I have received your note relating to a new magazine — I am not writing much this summer and, from not having been well am already behindhand with some work which I wish to finish. So I am afraid I cannot promise you anything for the first number — Perhaps I can do something for you later.

As for my terms [*extended space with a mark in the middle,* '] St. Nicholas

[*Page 2*]

and the Independent pay me at the rate of five dollars a ' page* — the Atlantic more than that —

I hardly know what kind of [sketches *corrected*] or stories you wish for; perhaps you have a prospectus or something of the sort which you will send me. I do not send away a great deal of work, and when I have any thing which I wish to publish I send it to one of the magazines which I have mentioned. But I have no doubt I shall write more and I may have some articles by and by which you could use — if you liked them — I wish

[*Page 3*]

you great success and am sincerely yrs.

Sarah O. Jewett.

Mr. W. L. Sawyer.

Notes

Sawyer: In *The Nation* 25 (1877) p. 32 — and elsewhere in 1877 — appeared an advertisement announcing a new magazine, *Once a Month*, managed by W. L. Sawyer in Portland, ME. Among its contributors, Jewett is listed. *The Independent* (2 August 1877), p. 10,

describes the first issue and promises a serial by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps to begin in the next issue. However, no issues are listed in WorldCat, and it is not known whether the magazine continued after the first issue.

He may also have edited the short-lived *Portland Saturday Evening Gazette*, DeCreny & Sawyer publishers. Further information about his identity remains unknown.

page: Twice in this letter, Jewett seems clearly to have placed a mark like an apostrophe within a line. In neither case is it clear what she meant to convey.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

John Taylor Perry* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cinti. June 6. 1877

Dear Sally —

I have only time to write a word & [inclose *so spelled*] a little extract which comes from the N. Y. Ev'g Post of which Bryant* is the (nominal) editor. The papers have got through with D.H.* by the people who read it, and who all "get through" reading it, are emphatic in its praises. I bought three copies to lend & give away reserving one for myself & the chief book club here has it on its list & I have circulated the office copy through the families of the Gazette Co, & it ought to run through the rest. I have heard of more than one instance [where *?*] those who have read have told others to do likewise — So whether you get much money or not you have got a very fair start in the road to fame — If the rich (& virtuous) Bostonian offers himself to you as a celebrity you may get a voyage to Europe & a fine establishment as additional pay for your enterprise. Does this ^counsel^ savor of W.P.'s* counsels! If it looks selfish & mercenary dont follow it — At all events dont sell your happiness for cash, though if love and cash form

[*Page 2*]

a partnership I can't say nay —

The Linn St. mansion has been sold at last. It didn't turn out a good investment, though it was regarded as such when I bought, & had I sold before the panic ^of '73^* as I ought, I should have got my money back. Still, allowing for the decline of gold from 125 to 106 I have done well. I have really lost not much over $1000 which is not more than the shrinkage of all values apart from and extra to that of gold. I should have gained nothing by waiting. The street is "[disimproving *?*]"! The [purchaser *?*] is a fat German, who has made $30.000 in keeping a liquor shop & is drinking so much that his friends have persuaded him to sell out & retire. He paid all cash & assumed a [years taxe say *so it appears*] $120 which I was legally bound to pay. Everyone thinks I have done a good thing. I have hired a house on Mt. Auburn, on Summit St. The highest ground in the county is splendid and resplendent, & surrounded by a great many of Sarah's best friends. [Yet *?*] it is like a N. E. village, & nearly all the nice people are getting on the hills except Doctors, & those whose business or investments tie them down. It takes only a few minutes longer to get to M.A. than to Linn St. The house is good, not [*deletion of* often *or* after] { a } very fine one, with more room than we have in Linn St especially for storage, & is only $1500 a year, which is cheaper than owning. I have leased for a year with privilege of renewal. I hope you will get personally acquainted with the [house *corrected*] & its [resplendence *?*]. We shall move week after next waiting a week that Dr. W^{m}* may not find us up in arms when he gets here.

With regards to all &

[*Up the right margin of page 2*]

yrs J. T. P.

Notes

Perry: See Sarah Chandler Perry in Key to Correspondents.

Bryant: American poet and journalist, William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878). Wikipedia.

D.H.: *Deephaven,* Jewett's first novel, had appeared in April.

W.P.'s: Probably Jewett's grandfather, Dr. William Perry, but possibly his son, Dr. William Gilman Perry. Key to Correspondents.

'73: Wikipedia says the 1873 financial crisis in Europe and North America, lasted until about 1877 in the U.S.

Dr. W^{m}: Probably Dr. William Gilman Perry, but possibly his father, Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 177. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

8 June 1877

Dear Prof. Parsons

I have been a long time in answering your letter which I was so glad to have — but I found at first little time for letters, from one reason or another, and lately I have been ill — and am just beginning to crawl out again like an old fly in the spring. I just said this to someone

[*Page 2*]

else, and it told my story so well that I repeat it to you!

I am so glad that you told me some of the faults you found with Deephaven* — for as you say honest criticism helps one after all more than praise. I think it would have been better to have put in a little more 'moralizing' and I should do it if I wrote another book of this kind. For myself, I like best to have the moral in the story — to make the character as apparent as I can, as one feels instinctively the character of the people one meets — I always feel as if when I say anything directly

[*Page 3*]

as if it were awkward and that if the story itself doesn't say it, it is no use to put it in afterward — I think this is a mistake with me often times. I should be sorry to miss doing good because I carried out my fancy and pleased myself in the fashion of my writing — I hoped Deephaven might do two things — the first to help people to look at 'commonplace' lives from the inside instead of the outside — to see that there is so deep and true a sentiment and loyalty and tenderness and courtesy and patience — where at first sight there is ^only^ roughness and coarseness and something to be ridiculed —— And beside this

[*Page 4*]

it seems to me that such a life as I told about in Deephaven is so much pleasanter and more real, than what one calls 'society life' — I think so many girls I know care so little for out-door life, and its pleasures and see so few of its beauties. And do you know I made 'Kate' say that she can see how easily they might have had a dull summer — only they chose not to have it? —— I meant to teach that if I could. I should like to write more — but I cannot to-day — I did not wish to leave your kind letter any longer unanswered, and I wished to thank you for it and for all your interest and kindness always — Yours sincerely and affly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to W. L. Sawyer

South Berwick

15 June 1877

My dear Mr. Sawyer*

I am sorry to say that I cannot send anything in time for your first number — I do not wish to seem disobliging, but I have nothing ready — and I have been ill lately and ought not to write — I have to be away part of next week too — and I am anxious to finish some

[*Page 2*]

copying before then ^if I do anything^ — I should not wish to send you an article written in a hurry and when I did not feel like it — for your credit as well as my own — If I had any thing I was willing to print all ready that would make a difference — Thank you for the compliment you pay me — and believe that I send hearty good wishes for the success of the magazine.

Yrs sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

[*back of page 1*]

Please do not forget to send me the prospectus for I should like very much to see it — and to know more about the magazine [and *?*] which I am much interested.

I suppose, like all editors, you have more verses than you want? —

Notes

Sawyer: See also Jewett to Sawyer of 6 June 1877. In *The Nation* 25 (1877) p. 32 — and elsewhere in 1877 — appeared an advertisement announcing a new magazine, *Once a Month*, managed by W. L. Sawyer in Portland, ME. Among its contributors, Jewett is listed. *The Independent* (2 August 1877), p. 10, describes the first issue and promises a serial by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps to begin in the next issue. However, no issues are listed in

WorldCat, and it is not known whether the magazine continued after the first issue.

He may also have edited the short-lived *Portland Saturday Evening Gazette*, DeCreny & Sawyer publishers. Further information about his identity remains unknown.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Rubinstein Library, Small Manuscripts Collection, Duke University. Sec. A Box 174 Folder 1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Harriet Waters Preston
Fragment*

[*Summer 1877*]*

[*Page 1*]

young girlhood! I somehow have a great wish that you could have been in Wells with me and that you could have seen this girl in particular. There are glorious sunsets there — over beyond the great marshes — and in the light the boats that ride and sway and sink out at the moorings get such a beautiful color and everything grows so rich and then fades back into gray and brown and the stars come out and we watch for the Boon Island light —

[*Page 2; not certain this follows from 1*]

Hervé Rice* and I meant [to *?*] [*unrecognized word*] it all but what can one do in such hopeless laziness! My friend was there with me, (not Grace* for she goes to Portsmouth before she comes to me) and I sat on the rocks most of the time and sometimes went to walk with her a little way — This was Miss Seeger* and I have not been good to her at all — I didn't feel like talking and I have been tired and cross, and I have had a horridly lame shoulder which I made worse trying to throw stones farther out to sea that some other little boys could — I wish I felt better Miss Preston! I am

[*Page 3*]

getting so cross about it — and if staying awhile longer at Wells doesn't make me feel good for something, I shall be miserable. I am not contented to wait for October; there is so much I wish to do — It was so salt at Wells that I thought I was forty times better and I am not after all. And I wish I had been nicer to H — though I suppose she understood and she is a dear fellow —

And what can I say about my being so glad you like [lap-lilies *?*] and the red soldiers that have to be stationed for sentinels all through the [*deletion, possibly* fields] pastures to keep the other plants in order

[*Page 4*]

now they have grown-up. I wonder if the little green things dont feel safer when the red soldiers come to stand guard — I have been driving a good deal today and I have brought home a lovely handful of the yellow lilies for you and me — I shall have them for your flower — now. [They *corrected*] are not very common about here, but there are so many of the red ones! I love them all — those dear lilies! [And *corrected*] I'm so glad you do, Miss Preston — And I wonder if you go crazy over a field-ful of white daisies? I am going to send you some verse that I wrote

[*Manuscript ends. No signature*]

Notes

fragment: It is not clear that page 2 follows from page 1.

1877: This date is completely speculative. All of the other currently known correspondence from Jewett to Preston is from 1877. In *Sarah Orne Jewett* (1994), Paula Blanchard says that the Preston-Jewett correspondence began in 1877 and continued for a short time until Preston apparently took offense at something Jewett said or did and became markedly distant (pp. 108-9).

Hervé Rice: This transcription is uncertain and this person or item has not yet been identified.

Grace: Jewett could refer to either of two of her correspondents, Grace Norton and Grace Gordon, later Walden. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Seeger: Probably this is Harriet Seeger (d. 1921), referred to later as H. She was the niece of Jewett correspondent Eliza Seeger.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 274.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

8 July 1877

Dear Prof. Parsons

Thank you so much for your last letter. I have wished to write to you but somehow I keep putting off writing letters this summer, day after day. I have not felt at all well most of the time and I am lazier than ever! When your letter came I was staying down at Wells where I first knew you and I meant to write you from there at once because I had been thinking about you

[*Page 2*]

so much — It always carries me back at once to those days, when I go to Wells — and I wished I could see you — again and again — But how much there must be to enjoy in Nantucket! I want to go there and to Marblehead more than any places I can think of — and I hope to make the two journeys in the course of time, neither being very long!—

Didn't I tell you that I had promised Mr. Osgood* to get ready a book of children's stories? I have given up the idea for the present, for

[*Page 3*]

I did not feel a bit like working over it all through August — as I should have had to do. Mr. Osgood thinks it is just as well to put it off though he ~~thinks~~ ^says^ the book shall be published whenever I say — I am in such a hurry to have September come for then I shall feel well and go to work again — I am so hopelessly tired and lazy all this summer and my lame shoulder and chest have troubled me more than usual — I think I hurt it while I was at Wells for the last day I was in swimming { — } I got dreadfully used up before I knew it and I

[*Page 4*]

think I worked too hard on that occasion which will be a most profitable lesson to me! I am to have a jolly long time by the sea this year if everything goes right — Next week I am to spend with my aunt and cousins the Gilmans and Bells at Little [Boar's *corrected*] Head in Rye* — They have just come from abroad and I have only been with them part of a day, so I shall have such a good time. Both my sisters are to be there too. After that some of my friends are to be here and about the middle of August or perhaps earlier

[*Page 5*]

I am going to York to stay two weeks at least with Miss Preston.* You don't know how very fond ^of her^ I have grown or how very kind she is to me.

I am still having a great deal of pleasure from Deephaven, and I don't know when I have been so proud and so glad about anything as I was of getting a letter from Mr. Whittier* a few days ago — Wasn't he kind to take the trouble to write to me and to say that he had read my book three times and that he thought there was nothing

[*Page 6*]

better in our literature of the kind and that he thought it a complete success — and things of that sort? I don't think a letter could have been pleasanter and I have enjoyed what he has written so much ever since I was a little girl, that I am delighted to know that anything I could do has pleased him — I have had some new notices in magazines which were very kind — I wish you would look at one in the June Eclectic* if you ever come across that number — for it was such high praise — and praise that went

[*Page 7*]

to my heart — and will make me try to come up to the high-water mark which the writer seems to think I have reached, and which I certainly think I have not. For I must tell you and all my friends — again and again that I never wished to work so hard over my writing or saw the need of it so clearly as I do now —

It seems to me that I never felt so entirely that I am just beginning and have no end of things to learn and to do — And I see that I must try harder than ever to be better myself if I want my stories to be really good — I am always

[*Page 8*]

remembering what I have often spoken to you about = the bit from a notice of one of Miss Thackeray's book{s}* "In short, the tenderness of a loving womanly heart pervades the whole story. It is Miss Thackeray herself in Old Kensington that makes it so delightful a book" — —

You do not know how much that taught me — and I want to tell you again because you have helped me so much — that I am more than ever glad of the help, and I beg you to teach me and to scold me and to show me my way, because alone I am always going wrong though I do wish to go right — How much I wish I could have a long talk with you! Good-bye — yours sincerely and lovingly

Sarah

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Please give my love to Mrs. Parsons and Miss Sabra —*

Notes

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

*Gilmans and Bell*s: For members of the Gilman and Bell families, see ey to Correspondents.

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. ey to Correspondents.

a letter from Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. ey to Correspondents. For Whittier's letter, see above, Whittier to Jewett of 24 July.

June Eclectic: This review appeared in *The Eclectic* in June 1877.

from a notice of one of Miss Thackeray's books: Miss Thackeray is William M. Thackeray's daughter, also a novelist, Anne Isabella Thackeray, Lady Ritchie (1837-1919). *Old Kensington* appeared in 1873. Richard Cary notes that in his review, Henry Mills Alden wrote: "It is Miss Thackeray in *Old Kensington* which makes it so delightful a story" in "Editor's Literary Record," *Harper's*, XLVII (June 1873), p. 131.

Miss Sabra: Mary Sabra Parsons. See Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Oak Knoll

Danvers

24th 7th mo 1877

Dear Friend

I must thank thee for thy admirable book "Deephaven."* I have given several copies to friends, all of whom appreciate it highly, & I have just been reading it over for the third time. I know of nothing ^better^ in our literature of the kind

[*Page 2*]

though it recalls Mifs Mitford's "Our Village" and the Chronicles of Carlingford.*

I heartily congratulate ^thee^ on thy complete succefs and am very truly thy frd.

John G. Whittier

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in 1877.

Mitford ... Carlingford: Mary Russell Mitford (1787-1855), *Our Village* (1856-1857), and Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897), *Chronicles of Carlingford* (9 volumes, 1863-66).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence. Letters from John Greenleaf Whittier, MS Am 1743 (235). This letter has been transcribed previously by Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

25 July 1877

Dear Anna

I am so sorry but I don't believe I can possibly make you a visit this summer — In the first place I am not feeling well at all and when I get away from home I want to go close by the sea and until it is a good deal cooler I ~~never~~ ^should not^ dare to go far inland — Whenever I have done so I have always have had to pay for it — And we are

[*Page 2*]

looking for a good many visitors during the next two months, which fact bars* the way at once — I do want to see you very much indeed and I wish you could come to me, for a little while at any rate —

It is very provoking to me not to have felt better this summer for I wished to do a great many things — I have had to give up the plan into which I entered so heartily at first, of getting

[*Page 3*]

ready a volume of children's stories for Mr. Osgood* to publish in October for the Christmas market. He is very good about it, indeed he thinks it better perhaps to wait awhile — though he says it shall be published whenever I choose. But I hate to give up anything and I should have chosen to do the work now if I had felt like writing all through August —

I am very lazy indeed — and I haven't anything in the way of news to tell you{.}

[*Page 4*]

I have been staying by the sea with my sister Carrie* who is not well yet — and one day I went over to Exeter to see my aunt and cousins, the Gilmans and Bells* who to my heart's delight have just come home from abroad. Miss Preston* is coming to York the tenth of August, and when I can [caught *so written*] a chance I am going down —York is only a dozen miles from us — shall not I be happy to have Miss Preston to myself as much as I can there! I wish you were ^to be^ there — I hope you will never have a

[*Page 5*]

suspicion that I am not awfully sorry I cant go to you for a visit now! I have always wanted to go to the Berkshire region again, even if I did not

wish so much to see you, and did not know what good times we could have together — I have had to refuse and put off other visits beside lately, and I get so sorry over it!

— I have been so much interested lately in a girl here* who is younger by some years

[*Page 6*]

than I am, and who has seemed to be very fond of me — I have always fancied her very much and hoped some day I could 'get at' her and lately it came about. She is trying very hard to grow better, and there is something very touching in her way of talking about it. She is a wild out-doors sort of girl very fond of horses and all that sort of thing, and I have been [surprised *corrected*] more [and *corrected*]

[*Page 7*]

more to find how much tenderness and loneliness she has covered up by her careless wild ways. Not that she is rough or rude exactly, but untamed! I am getting very fond of her, and I must have told you that it is my great ambition to have younger girl-friends as I grow older, and to do them good and help them — so you will understand the happiness her liking for me gives me. She is so sincerely trying to be a Christian — she has

[*Page 8*]

rather a lonely home which I hope to help her make pleasanter for herself and the rest — There is a pathos about her ^of^ which I always am conscious and lately she has been ill —

— I always find so much to say to you dear Dawes-y but I must just now unwillingly say good-bye. I am sorry your arm is lame — so is mine { — } that is to say, my chest & shoulder* — and I think we had better learn to write with our left hands. I can already a little, can you?

Yours with much love

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

bars: This manuscript sheet has a hole torn in it, removing some words, e.g. "the" after "bars." It appears that Hollis may have seen the undamaged manuscript; I draw on his transcription to fill in blanks.

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents. Jewett's *Play Days* was published the following year.

Carrie: Carrie Augusta Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Gilmans and Bells: For members of the Gilman and Bell families, Key to Correspondents.

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

a girl here: The identity of this person is as yet unknown.

shoulder: Hollis says Jewett "'had sprained her shoulder fairly badly swimming at Wells' earlier that summer, according to F. O. Matthiessen, *Sarah Orne Jewett* (Boston, 1929), 57."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

27 July 1877

My dear Mr. Whittier

Thank you with all my heart for your letter which came last night. I think you were so kind to write to me, and I cannot tell you how glad I am that you like my book.* I hoped you would like it a little, but I never thought you would care so much for it, and I am so glad and so proud. I have read your poems over and

[*Page 2*]

over ever since I was a little girl, and because I have had so much pleasure and have learned so much from what you have written, it makes me very happy to have pleased you by anything I have done.

I remember that you told me last winter that you had been here and in Rollinsford.* I wish you would come again and would stay with us, and give us the very great pleasure of driving you about the country wherever you care to go and of doing everything we can

[*Page 3*]

to make it pleasant for you. I think it never was so beautiful about Berwick as it is now — though it is always new to me — and there is a great deal to interest one here and in York and up and down the river. My father wishes me to ask you if some time you will not care to come.

Please let me thank you again for your kindness to me, for your letter will always be one

of my great treasures and because you praised my work I shall try harder than I ever have before to make

[*Page 4*]

it better.

Yours most sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

book: See Whittier to Jewett of 24 July 1877, where he praises *Deephaven* (1877).

Rollinsford: Richard Cary notes that the family of Whittier's mother resided in Rollinsford, NH, just across the river from South Berwick.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Rowley, MA. in the John Greenleaf Whittier Papers Box 5. A previous transcription appears in Richard Cary, "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Mary M. Porter* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Newport, R. I.

July 27th 1877

My dear Mifs Jewett.

I am afraid you will think me the most ungrateful creature in the world to have left your charming letter so long unanswered. I quite agree with you that explanations should be done away with, when they are on <u>your</u> side however, not on mine. And I must tell you that it was a long illness of my sister — during the intervals of which I had to take charge of the Southern Education Society* that put a complete stop to any other correspondence. The attempt

[*Page 2*]

to do a little of my own work late at night, soon got my eyes [once *?*] over strong, into such a state that any further use was out of the question. Now we are both at Newport, where Sister is quite well again and whence one of the first uses of my eyes is to write this long stupid explanation to you. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed Deep Haven* — No wonder you are fond of descriptive writing when you [were in the so *?*] — I was quite delighted in reading it, for apart from the interest and merit of the book, I had a strong personal feeling as if I were really making your acquaintance, perhaps even more than if I met you, for

[*Page 3*]

you know when people meet in the world, they have to say pretty much the same things. And it takes a long or a familiar acquaintance to get beneath the surface — But I feel now as if I had known you and "Kate" for a long while — & have even gone so far as to speculate what I should have done and said had I accompanied you on some of your expeditions, for I am sure they all really took place. Is there no chance of your coming to Newport this summer. Kate Birckhead* says she is hoping very much for a visit from you — and Ellen* spoke as if there were really some likelihood of its taking place. So I am constantly hoping

[*Page 4*]

that I may really meet you before I go back to the South. I enclose you the little paper on our part of the Country, that we spoke of so long ago — and which my sister's illness prevented her writing before. If they care for it in the Independent she will write a series of them —

It is so cool and lovely here this summer, such a contrast to the heat of last year — I find it charming in every respect — people do complain I believe of its not being as gay as usual, but then they have not been passing their winter in the backwoods of Louisiana — My little story is laid by for a while and I have no doubt the rest will be as beneficial to its health as to mine —

With kindest remembrances

[*Cross-written in the top margin of page 1*]

from my Sister, believe me my dear Mifs Jewett yours very sincerely

Mary M. Porter

Notes

Porter: Little has been learned about Mary Porter and her sister, who probably was Annie Porter. Miss Mary Porter was the author of "Aunt Betsey's Funeral Sermon," a story appearing in *The Independent* of 11 January 1878, p. 3. Annie Porter's series of sketches entitled "My Village in the South," began in January 1879 in *Lippincott's Magazine.* These sketches, set in Louisiana, were at least partly fictional.

Family Search provides several records of a likely Porter family. While they are not perfectly consistent with the information in this letter, there are strong correspondences.

The 1860 census places this family in Newport, RI.

Mother: Mary Porter, age 34, born in Tennessee

Daughter: Annie, age 16, born in Louisiana
Son: Alexander, age 14, born in Louisiana
Daughter: Mary, age 13, born in Pennsylvania

In this census, they are listed as having real estate valued at $900K and personal wealth of $100K.

In the 1870 census, mother and daughters were in Ward Three, St. Mary, Louisiana, on the coast roughly 90 miles southwest of New Orleans. Annie is listed as age 25 and Mary as 22, close to but not the same compared to 1860. Mother Mary is listed as a planter with real estate of $200K and personal wealth of $5K.

Southern Education Society: Probably she refers to a Louisiana chapter of the Freedman's Aid and Southern Education Society. The society's purpose was the education of former slaves.

Haven: *Deephaven* (1877).

Kate Birckhead: Key to Correspondents.

Ellen: Ellen Mason. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 180. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mrs. Haskins*

South Berwick

30 July 1877

My dear Mrs. Haskins

Mother wishes me to tell you that she was very glad to have your note and to know you are so near. She has been ill for some days but as soon as she is

[*Page 2*]

well enough she means to drive down to see you — She sends much love to you and hopes you will come up to Berwick if you can —

In haste yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Haskins: The recipient of this letter has not yet been identified. It is possible that Jewett wrote "Hoskins."

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 4, Folder 159, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. Trafton's notes indicate that the manuscript is held by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Frank W. Fiske* to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*, *underlined portions hand-written*]

COLORADO CENTRAL RAILROAD

Golden Station, Aug 9th

Dear Sara.

[*End letterhead*]

[*1877*]*

I was very pleasurably surprised to receive a letter from you last week although you did give me a little rap on the knuckles for my bad habit of not keeping up a correspondence. But it has been so long since I could say any good at myself that I have fallen into the above habit almost imperceptibly — Yes Sara, we have grown older. I especially — I feel that the weight of about 50 years weigh me down, but I have improved my time in one way — I have got married (so have [beaten *?*] you.) & think it is the one redeeming feature in my life. I have got a good wife too, not a fancy article, but a substantial good for everything, wife, one who keeps me straight, & you know how liable I am to shoot off on tangents to the wrong, and one who keeps me at work, much as I hate exertion{.} I wish I were able to bring her home & introduce her to all my friends & relations. There is one of the accomplishments she does excel in — that is music { — }

[*Page 2, letterhead*]

she is one of the finest [Ameture *so it appears*] piano players I ever heard and good Lord — what music she does make with a washboard & tub, only I have to play an accompaniment on the well sweep to the last named voluntary, which is strictly opposed to my end & aim of existence. [with *not capitalized*] a strange [perversity *?*] she also sets all the "Rights of Man{"} at defiance & makes me get up at 6 [oclock *so spelled*] A.M. (not evening) & "rastle" with an obstinate cook stove & is not adverse to my getting breakfast. This last she generally manages to do by some slurring allusion to my Knowledge at cookery — that always sets me at it, but I get the best of it anyway. She has to eat what my labors produce, but then come to think of it I do too — "cuss it" {.} The willow tree has a kind remembrance in my visions of "long ago" as do all my friends as they are becoming more & more [unreal *?*] objects of my life{.} I have read your book & liked it too — [some *?*] old family stories seemed to be reproduced in it. Your

[*Page 3, letterhead*]

book is now travelling the rounds at the town & liked by all. [but *not capitalized*] I must tell you of the criticism of one old maid who got hold of it but whose mind was not large enough to take it in. She volunteered the assertion to Hattie that "she'd read that book" [and *corrected*] when Hattie asked her how she liked it replied "well, I dont know! but the rhyme is splendid{.}. Lay down your pen, [mine *?*] gifted cousin — & bask in the sunshine of that criticism a while. So delighted with the rhyme. [its *not capitalized*] enough to give [me *or* one] the dysentery this warm weather — but why dont you tell us what you write for, the "Bald Eagle of Frau Shirt" or what periodical, so I can obtain it & peruse the efforts of your brain {.} Come out to Colorado Sara, & I'll give you matter enough for a year & will board & cloth you for your services, as long as you will stay.

But as it is dinner time I must close, but not before I ask you to give much love from Harriet & myself to [Aunt *written over something*] Cariline, Mollie, Carry & your good Father

I am your devoted & admiring cousin

Frank W — Fiske

Notes

Fiske: Houghton archivists have, not unreasonably, read the signature of this letter as "Frank W. Teske." Probably, though, the letter is by Frank W. Fiske, Fiske and Fisk being the name of a branch of Jewett's mother's family. Abby Gilman Perry Fisk was Jewett's maternal aunt. In this letter, Jewett's mother is "Aunt Caroline," and her sisters Mollie/Mary Rice and Carry/Caroline.

Among the children of Abby G. Perry and Francis Allen Fiske was Frank W. Fiske (1851-1886). However, it is not yet known whether this cousin is the Frank Fiske who authored this letter.

1877: Houghton Library archivists have assigned this date. Probably this is right, as it must have been composed after publication of Jewett's first book, *Deephaven* (1877), and before the death of her father on 20 September 1878. Though this would make both 1877 and 1878 possible, 1877 seems more likely, for Jewett seems not to have reported on her father's ill health in her letter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 210. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

the Atlantic Monthly,

———

The Riverside Press

Cambridge, Mass.

[*End letterhead, with date to the right*]

Aug. 12, 1877.

Dear Miss Jewett:

Don't be too proud, now your book* has succeeded so splendidly to send some stories and sketches to

Your good old friend,

The Atlantic Monthly

Notes

book: Presumably, Howells refers to Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

Lacking his signature makes it uncertain that Howells penned this note, but the tone and the handwriting are at least similar to those of letters he signed.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

'Oak Knoll'

Danvers 14th — 8 Mo. *1877**

My dear frd.

Thanks for thy exceedingly kind invitation to South Berwick — and "Deephaven."* I wish I could accept it, but the dog-days compel ^me^ to keep quiet at home. Did I answer thy letter before this? — I half suspect I did, but in the multiplicity of my correspondence, I am

[*Page 2*]

not quite sure, and so write now. I hear thy little book everywhere praised. ~~and~~ The hotels & boarding houses of "Old York" ought to give thee & thy friends free rooms, from this time henceforth, for there will be half thy readers going to "Deephaven{.}" My friend Miss Preston[,]* whom thee know I suppose, is there now at the "Harbor."*

[*Page 3*]

I hope I may sometime, avail myself of thy invitation.

I saw our good friend Mrs. Ellis at Newtonville* the other day.

Always & truly thy frd.

John G. Whittier

Notes

14th 8 Mo. 1877: Whittier uses the Quaker dating system, giving the day and the number of the month.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in the spring of 1877. Whittier seems to be thinking of "Old York" as a model for the fictional the town of Deephaven that is the setting of Jewett's novel.

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston (1836-1911), a writer and translator, was one of those from whom Jewett sought advice early in her career. See Blanchard, *Sarah Orne Jewett*, pp. 108-9.

the "Harbor": This is likely to be the York Harbor Inn, in York Harbor Maine.

Mrs. Ellis at Newtonville: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents. She was a member of the Claflin family of Newtonville, MA.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the South Berwick Public Library, South Berwick, ME. Transcription by John Richardson.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

South Berwick, Maine

16 Aug 1877

Dear Sir

Cannot I have the rest of the notices of Deephaven* now if you are done using them?

There are a great many that I have not seen and I shall thank you very much if you will take the trouble to send them. Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

William Hayes Ward to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*, *handwritten date in underlined space*]

The Independent.

Editorial Rooms, 251 Broadway}

Post-Office Box 2787.

New York, Aug 30 1877.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Miss Jewett

The trouble with this is not that it is badly written, but that there is not enough substance to it — It is rather thin in story, or plot, or what not. Yet I like it, but not well enough to print it — The other* might suit me better. There is no "folk lore" about it. But thanks to you. You will not offend me by any

[*Page 2*]

such kindness to your friends.

very sincerely

Mr Hayes Ward

Deputy ed

Notes

other: Jewett's next story to appear in *The Independent* was "Patty's Long Vacation" in May 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 43.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

10 Sept. 1877

Dear Dawes-y my dear friend!

I have thought of you fondly if I have not written. The hindrance was a combination of visitors and my lame shoulder and two, long, delicious, and lazy weeks at York Harbor. I came home from there Saturday night via Portsmouth and I must confess that I am a little homesick for the sound of the sea — the charming out-door life and the dear old and new friends from [whom *corrected]* I had to part — Most of them had either left ^already^ or came [away *corrected]* when I did, and yet there are some

[*Page 2*]

who will stay until October — I mean to drive down for the day the first morning I think it will be decent to suggest it to my family —

Do you always feel a little unsettled and ill at ease when you first get home or rather back! It always is a little uninteresting to me for a day or two. I am not ready to write or to do anything sensible. I think one is half a guest, dont you? and doesn't take one's proper place at the beginning. At least I dont, and I remember that while I was growing up and afterward I used to get very blue and lonely and miss

[*Page 3*]

my friends awfully for two weeks at least — But my writing has had a great influence over that naughtiness. I can always throw myself heart and soul into that.

— I am thinking a good deal of late about my winters work — and I wish I could begin upon it at once. My shoulder (or rather the lame place in my chest which I call my shoulder 'for short') has been troubling me dreadfully this summer — and I know I had better let writing alone. I wish I could talk over with you a plan of which I have thought a good deal — and perhaps I can some day before I carry

[*Page 4*]

it out — I shall begin steady writing very soon, for I have so much to do. Mr. Howells* has been writing to me for some stories and I wish I had them done. I have thought a great deal about my scribbling this [summer *corrected*] — and I never was so much interested in it. We have some visitors[*deletion*] [coming *corrected*] a little later and after that my time will be mostly my own — which speech you need not criticise because I see its inefficiency and naughtiness as well as you!

Miss Preston* meant to come from York with me for a little

[*Page 5*]

visit, but was obliged to go elsewhere first. It all came out right though I was so sorry about it at first, for Mother is sick today —

How much better I should like talking with you than writing! We would go for a walk Dawes-y for there is an exquisite sunset shining in at the window through the trees — I feel exactly like a talk with you — and I half think you are thinking of me too, just now — Do you ever feel certain of such things? I wish you were to be here for the next few days.

[*Page 6*]

We would stay out doors all the time and spend all our afternoons down river, for the tide is high of an afternoon just now and I should like to pull you down two miles and then stop in the shade and read and gossip until it is time to come home to supper —

Thank you for your interest in my younger girl friend and I am glad to tell you that she is growing stronger and happier in every way — I think you would like her dearly, and

[*Page 7*]

isn't it a great thing to be used in helping somebody — and to have people associate you with their pleasures and blessings? We will try to be good tools and to keep ourselves always ready for God's use, wont we dear? — I wish we could talk more about these things, but we have talked haven't we? and we are sure of each other's sympathy, which is a very great thing —

It is growing dark and I must say good night to you — though there is so much else I wish to tell you — How pleasant

[*Page 8*]

it has been to know Miss Preston more and to love her better — and about the new friend I made at York — and how nice it was when somebody would tell [*deletion*] me they had liked my little Deephaven — and thank me for pleasure I had given "unbeknownst" ——

Good-bye — I have your Litany put away in its letter wh. I can't get at tonight, but I will send it to you shortly. I beg your pardon for keeping it — but I quite forgot it — God bless you and fare you well.

Yours sincerely & lovingly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925. An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes," *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New

transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

South Berwick

11 Sept 1877

Dear Mr. Osgood

Some day will you please have those childrens stories* sent to me. There's no hurry only I am going to finish a scrap-book I am making of my 'works' and I want to put them in some rainy morning or other —

Is Deephaven* still getting on well? And have you

[*Page 2*]

any idea how many more have been sold? I have proud thoughts of buying myself a most gallant new horse* for riding — and though I don't care for a cheque at all until your usual time of sending it, I wish I could have some idea of how well the book has done — or how ill!

I have just been down at

[*Page 3*]

York Harbor for a fortnight and I wish I were back again. This does not show decent civility to ones family I fear! — If this is a busy time with you I beg you will not answer my letter until you find it quite convenient —

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

childrens stories: It is uncertain which stories Jewett means, but presumably she means those published in *Riverside Magazine*, where a number of her children's stories had appeared. Though she speaks here of making a scrap book, it seems likely that she also is looking forward to *Play Days*, which Houghton, Osgood & Co. published in 1878.

Deephaven: Jewett is inquiring about sales of her first book, published earlier in 1877.

horse: Within a month, Jewett had chosen her horse. See her letters of October 10 and 11.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

17 Sept. 1877

My dear Prof. Parsons

I have just come home from York Harbor where I have been staying for two long, delicious lazy weeks — and I wish I were back again — Isn't that a lack of decent [civility *corrected*] to my family! But I miss the sound of the sea and the out of door life and I miss my friends with whom I have been. The sorrow is never in getting home but in getting back — which

[*Page 2*]

not very plain sentence, I think you will understand —

I wrote you some time ago and sent the letter to Nantucket where I hope you had a pleasant vacation. I wish I could go there. It is one of the places I most wish to see. I shall ask you ever so many questions about it when I see you again — I hope I shall be in Boston a good deal this winter — but I hope that every year without my visits growing much longer — If I am only well I shall do a great deal of writing but my shoulder has troubled

[*Page 3*]

me more than usual through the summer and it tires me dreadfully to write more than half an hour or so — I stopped just after I wrote that and imagined your telling me there is a purpose [in *?*] all this hindrance — and I am already very sure that it is ^sometimes^ better for one's work to be hindered — But don't you think it is very hard to have to be idle, when one wishes to be busy? — —

I have had a pleasant summer all except not feeling well. I have been by the sea a great deal, and I have seen a great many

[*Page 4*]

old friends and have made some charming new ones — It has made me very happy to find that I have been making friends 'unbeknownst' through Deephaven* and I am so glad people like it, and yet I am more sober than ever when I think of it. But I have told you that in every letter! — never mind! I should say a great deal about what I mean to try to do, if I were with you, and a bit of it will get written down, whether or no.

I must tell you of something

[*Page 5*]

which has made me very happy, my friendship with two younger girls. I think I have spoken to

you of one whom I [have *corrected*] known for a year, but the other I have only had to do with this summer and I am so glad that I have 'helped' her to help herself. I think I have no greater wish or ambition than to be a good friend to younger girls and I hope to be of more and more use in this way as I grow older{.} I dont feel as if I were ready for it yet, but I have already learned that God can do good [work *corrected*] with very dull tools. —

I wish I could

[*Page 6*]

have a long talk with you — I do so often wish for that —

I have been enjoying one of my newer friends so much this summer. I wonder if you know much of her? Miss Preston — * I know I have spoken of my fondness* for her to you but I have been with her lately and I was very happy. I am very fond of her books, and to know her is a thousand times better than reading those. I am very glad to have such a friend — indeed I think there never was a girl so lucky in her friendships as I have been — You know

[*Page 7*]

I mean a great deal when I say 'lucky'!

I am thinking a good deal nowadays about that old plan of mine for writing a book for girls.* If I were feeling better I believe I would begin it at once. I am sure of the truth of what you said once: that perhaps I could do it better now than if I waited until later — when I [am *?*] older and may have forgotten what troubles and helps a girl. I wish I could talk with you about it — I am very glad I did not try to do this bit of work three years ago when I was thinking so much

[*Page 8*]

about it —

I believe Deephaven is still getting on well — I have had so much real pleasure from it, and I am so glad to have done anything my friends like — They have been so [good *corrected*] to me — I want to do a great deal better next time — but I don't wish to get that restless ambition that drives and puzzles and discontents and disappoints one — And I don't wish to get so fierce a liking for my pen and ink that all my other work will seem stupid and not worth while!

There are so many things to say to you — but good-bye! Yours lovingly and sincerely and in the hope of growing good and useful

S.O.J.

Notes

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, was published by James R. Osgood & Co. in 1877.

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

fondness: Above this word is a mark that appears accidental.

book for girls: Jewett published two books "for girls," but more than a decade after this letter: *Betty Leicester. A Story for Girls* (1890) and its short sequel, *Betty Leicester's English Xmas: A New Chapter of an Old Story* (1894).

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Dean Howells

South Berwick,

18 Sept. 1877.

Dear Mr. Howells

Thank you for your funny, kind little note which I received just before I went to York for a while. I should like very much to send you some sketches* that were good enough for you to keep for 'the poor old friend' [!] and I hope I can go to work soon. I have not been well this summer and have written almost nothing. Perhaps I can send you two or three short papers about country people etc. for next year, for I have planned so many.

Has not everyone been very kind about that small book of mine?* I have had a thousand times more pleasure from it than I ever dreamed of, and I thank you so much for telling me to get it ready — because I certainly should have given up the idea if it hadn't been for you. It hardly seems real now, that people have liked it so much. My friends have been so very good to me that I am glad enough to have done something that pleased them. I hope Mrs. Howells is well and dear Pilla,* and that you have all had a most charming summer. Please give my love to them and believe me your[s] sincerely with most hearty thanks for your kindness.

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

sketches: It is not yet clear to which sketches Jewett refers. Nothing of hers appeared in *Atlantic* until March of 1878, "A Lost Lover." Several anonymous pieces possibly by her appeared later in 1878 in the Contributors' Club column.

small book of mine: Jewett refers to *Deephaven* (1877).

Mrs. Howells ... Pilla: Elinor and Mildred Howells. See William Dean Howells in Key to Correspondents.

A note on this transcription indicates that the original is in the Bowdoin Collection. However, Bowdoin College's on-line catalog of the Sarah Orne Jewett Papers (M238) lists no letter from Jewett to Howells. This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. For more information about the individual transcription, contact the Maine Women Writers Collection. Notes.

Version 2 of the body of this Typescript

This is from the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743.1 Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, Box 4 (122). The few differences are in punctuation.

The Houghton also holds a 3rd typescript in this folder. It varies slightly in punctuation from the other two.

Thank you for your funny, kind little note which I received just before I went to York for a while. I should like very much to send you some sketches* that were good enough for you to keep for 'the poor old friend' (!) and I hope I can go to work soon. I have not been well this summer and have written almost nothing. Perhaps I can send you two or three short papers about country people etc. for next year for I have planned so many.

Has not everyone been very kind about that small book of mine?* I have had a thousand times more pleasure from it than I ever dreamed of, and I thank you so much for telling me to get it ready, because I certainly should have given up the idea if it hadn't been for you. It hardly seems real now, that people have liked it so much. My friends have been so very good to me that I am glad enough to have done something that pleased them. I hope Mrs. Howells is well and dear Pilla* and that you have all had a most charming summer.

Please give my love to them and believe me yours sincerely with most hearty thanks for your kindness.

Ellen Tucker Emerson to Sarah Orne Jewett

Concord Sept 28th 1877

Dear Miss Jewett,

I have the book safely back, and thank you very much for your good letter with its very pleasant account by your class,* which you may be sure rejoiced my heart.

Ellen T. Emerson

Notes

your class: Jewett speaks of her Sunday school class for "grown-up girls" in her letters to Theophilus Parsons of 12 April 1877 and to Anna Laurens Dawes of 11 October 1877.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Library (New York) Special Collections — Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charlotte Alice Baker

South Berwick

28 Sept. 1877

Dear Miss Baker

I am going to write you this morning, for two reasons — first because I feel [like *corrected*] it — and also because I am afraid I should not have a good chance later, as I am going to be away next week — Thank you so much for your letter which came last night and I wish I could answer it in a talk instead of having to write — It has made me care

[*Page 2*]

a great deal more for you and I do truly hope I shall not make you sorry that you care for me — But I believe in taking ones friends for better and for worse, as people promise when they marry, and I am too glad to have your friendship and Miss Lane's* to try to persuade you out of liking me by telling over all the reasons why you might not! I think you are quite likely to find them out for yourselves! and all I have to say is that I want to be good and I mean to be good — and I am in more of a hurry

[*Page 3*]

about it, than anybody else — sometimes! ——- but isn't it easy to forget? I like so much all you said about my writing and you do not know how much I shall thank you if you will [always *corrected*] talk to me in just that way — Indeed I

think I am more likely to write too little than too much if I go on feeling as I do now about it — And it seems often now as if the power of writing managed me instead of my controlling it — Isnt that the difference between the Orchards Grandmother* and some of the

[*Page 4*]

work I have done later? I have been thinking about it a good deal since I read your letter. I get so possessed by my stories and wake up after [a *corrected from* all] while and wonder about them, and how they came, as if they were dreams — but for all that I work more slowly than I used and more heartily — As for that little story you read; it isn't like any of my other stories — that I [wrote *corrected*] then — seven years ago — It is a funny contrast to them in some ways. Mother never liked it — but I do — with all its faults and it is for the 'associations' I have with it more than anything ——-- It was not half so boyish as my stories usually were — I think you

[*Page 5*]

2

will know what I mean by 'boyish.' And not for knowing what one can do, and being conceited, somehow all that is very vague to me and when I try to think about myself it is like finding myself facing a high wall, where I had started for a walk! I wonder if you will not laugh when I tell you that it used to seem once in a while as if I had ^not had^ half my rightful share of pleasure out of little Deephaven* because I [*deletion possibly* couldn't] faced much difficulty in 'realizing' it — I always laugh a little when I use that word! My grandmother died when I was five years old and I remember clearly the

[*Page 6*]

solemn parade of the funeral and a great congregation of old ladies in black. (I dare say there were not so very many.) and one of these old ladies bent over me after the procession came back. I remember I was standing in front of the fender and [*deletion* she *or* the] just how tall the andirons looked there —— 'Aren't you sorry poor grandma is dead? Dont you miss her?' I suppose I didn't seem sympathetic — "Poor child. She doesn't realize it" — and for weeks after this I used to wonder and wonder when I should 'realize' it and what it would feel like —

[*Page 7*]

3

I think I have often felt so since then about one thing or another. But the older I grow the less I believe in getting puzzled and miserable about myself and the more I believe [in *corrected*] doing my work lovingly and heartily — whatever it is. And as for conceit — if that means being satisfied with oneself, God knows I am not that! though I might make some confessions to you 'under this head' — if I hadn't said I should not [at *corrected*] the beginning of this letter — And here comes in one favorite quotation — "Though" —-

— Isn't it provoking to be a housekeeper when a fellow wants to write a letter! I wish I could

[*Page 8*]

have had you and Miss Lane for my guests while I have been captain of this craft this week! Father and Mother have been up at the mountains and my sister Mary* is in Boston or Newton, or somewhere in that region — I never realized the expense of maintaining a family before, for I never kept house more than a day or two at a time — One of our girls is away too, and I have found treasures of knowledge in my dear head that I never knew about before — If you please, I think we have lived a little finer

[*Page 9*]

than usual! and they needn't poke fun at me for being 'feckless' anymore —

I am in a great fidget about my horse for it hasn't come yet and that man in Boston was ____ enough to send me a long story about a white horse that had been driven by a lady and would stop for you to put on the wheel of [the *corrected*] carryall and weighted 850 and was a "perfect [coset *so spelled*]" — And all this when I neither want a white horse or [*deletion* an *?*] a driving horse — or any of your meek little creatures. I know just what kind of a gait it would have — a feeble little

[*Page 10*]

trot! I don't like a trot but a good swing of a "lope" — However I have heard of some gallant steeds at North Conway — and let us hope!

— I hope next week will be very pleasant to you — and that there will be no snarls and worries. I think as you say that it grows more and more solemn to begin ones work — but I do not think you ought to be afraid — you and Miss Lane — God bless you both you dear friends of mine! — —-

I have found out something about the pewter — It belonged to the first Church in Lebanon, but it is only sixty years old. Though sixty years is a long while after all — and we will not

[*Page 11*]

4

be disappointed, will we? —— I also have polished mine though I dare say yours is shinier — and I am very fond of it — [*deletion*] It makes me think of you two people always and I'm so glad yours makes [you *corrected*] think of me — ~~That~~ It is so beautiful that you said about it in your letter. I had thought all those things — or part of them — and so do not the old cups still have a use. I am glad they fell into our hands are not you? ——- Good bye. good bye! —- but I cant help [thinking *corrected*] of the unwritten

[*Page 12*]

histories [in *corrected*] which those old cups played such a part — I care so much more for country-life every year — have not I told you so — for the very limitedness and the way womens lives have been [shut *?*] in — so [housed *?*]; and there has been such a dullness and such bright flickers of sunshine and such unflinching patience, and I love it all more and more. I wish I could have a talk with you — you would like the fire in the fireplace this gray day — and it would blaze up gallantly when I [*deletion* throug] threw this letter in and walked up for the two kisses apiece — good-bye again and God bless you always

Sarah O. J.

Notes

Miss Lane's: Susan Minot Lane (1832-1893).

Orchards Grandmother: Jewett's "The Orchard's Grandmother" first appeared in *Merry's Museum* (59:88-89), February 1871.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

With this manuscript is a damaged envelope addressed to Miss C. A. Baker, 5 Charles St. Boston, cancelled on 28 September in South Berwick. On the back, vertically up the left edge are penciled notes reading: xx pewter writing L. P.

Clara Sidney Potter Davidge Taylor to Sarah Orne Jewett

Grace Church Rectory

October 3d

[*1877*]*

My dear Sarah — It was a very great happiness to receive your letter, and such a surprise and pleasure to have you send me "Deephaven" — I had meant to read it straight off, and now I have it with

[*Page 2*]

your name and mine in it; and coming from you, makes it indeed a treasure — And I am enjoying it so much — And I wonder how I could have been on such free and easy terms and so little reverential to you, when you have made such a beautiful book. You know

[*Page 3*]

how [thouroughly *so it appears*] I must enjoy it because I should delight in such a life and such dear people (without your power of expression) almost as much as you would. I am so glad I did not read Deephaven until after I knew you. Now I can watch in the magazines for what

[*Page 4*]

your write and I shall watch indeed — Miss Mary* was rather blue I think after the cooperative broke up, we went out sailing she and I alone, a day or two before I left Newport, and though we could not find L.MᶜD. & had to take the "Marion" instead of

[*Page 5*]

"The Osprey"* — still we had a lovely time & settled for little mackerel getting frightfully excited when we caught anything — I am so busy and the town is so hot, that the memory of long out-door days is very dear, and I wonder how they have borne ^it^ these poor people who have been here

[*Page 6*]

all summer long. They look very bleached and tired — I was grieved not to be able to say goodby to you and I wrote you a goodby note which got torn up instead of being sent. I wanted to ask you for the verses you promised and a verse of the Irish song* about not

[*Page 7*]

depositing one's hopes in the top of one tree. Will you write them for me? That day in Bristol was so charming that I wish you could have been with me{.} I had such a good time tramping

over a beautiful stock farm, seeing prize cows with Dr. Horne* who owned

[*Page 8*]

them. You will let me know please, as soon as you get to New York, when you come here for a visit and I am so glad to think that I can be pretty sure of seeing you again.

Yours very sincerely

Clara Sydney Potter

Notes

1877: This year is probable because Jewett has sent Potter a copy of her 1877 novel, *Deephaven*.

Mary: Probably this is Taylor's sister, Mary Boyer Potter, who eventually married the portrait painter, William Henry Hyde.

L.M^{c}D. ... "Marion" ... "The Osprey": Presumably these are two sailboats and perhaps their owner-renter in Newport, RI. No more information has yet been discovered.

Irish song: This song has not yet been identified.

Dr. Horne: Dr. Horne has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 181. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to J. R. Osgood & Co.

Brunswick, Me.*

9 Oct. 1877

Messrs. J. R. Osgood & Co —

Please send me three copies of Deephaven* in gray bindings — and charge them to my account —

Sarah O Jewett

South Berwick, Me.

Notes

Brunswick, Me.: Parts of the top of the page are torn away. It appears Jewett has written "Me." after Brunswick, but this is uncertain. It also appears that the location and date have been crossed out by someone.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in 1877. In *A Bibliography of the Published Writings of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1949), Clara Carter and Carl J. Weber describe two 1877 bindings for the novel, cloth covers of grass green or copper. Jewett's letter suggests that there was a third binding.

Noted at the bottom of the page in another hand: "Sent Oct 10/77 p. 15c."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Alice Dunlap Gilman

South Berwick, Maine

October 10, 1877

Dear Cousin Alice:

Isn't it a good day for the fair?* and don't I wish I were there! —- I reached home all right but in the midst of a pouring rain — Mary* was to have been here at three, but she did not show herself, so we are looking for her this morning. Father and mother are very well but I think they have been rather lonely and we sat up late last night talking for I had so much to tell about my visit. You don't know how much I enjoyed

[*Page 2*]

it or how much I thank you and all the rest for your very great kindness to me — I shall have so many pleasant things to remember, and I hope you will all come here [*deletion*] before very long, and that I can do something for you.

As for the horse — in which I take it for granted you have some interest; I am sorry to say he is not here yet so I have to wait another day — It is not much matter because it is so muddy today, but I want to see how he looks.

[*Page 3*]

Father is away today and I think I shall give the horses a little exercise after I unpack my trunk. I wish Charlie* was here for I owe him some splendid drives and I shouldn't mind paying up at all. Tell Liddy* that I have lost some valuable time this morning because I had to sit right down and read the Mother's magazine —* I had a lot of letters to read last night and one [was *corrected*] from the editor of a new mag a zine.* asking me to write for it, so I dont believe I am likely to want business this winter with all the rest I have to do!

[*Page 4*]

Tell Aunty that she shall have the poem in a few days.

I keep thinking of the fair and wishing I could go. I am so glad it doesn't rain, —and I shall look anxiously for the Telegraph. Mother says the receipt for the "pepper-tomato" is to take the tomatoes and put them in hot water a little while so they will peel very easily and then put them in a kettle without any water and the proportion is three pounds of sugar to four pounds of fruit. Boil them until they get dark and thick (almost all day I guess) and put in cayenne pepper as strong as you like it. Mother is in the midst of grape jelly

[*Up the left side of page 1*]

& there are some things for me to do for her, so I must say goodby with ever and ever so much love to you and all the family.

From your sincere and aff —,

Sarah

Notes

fair: Richard Cary says this was the annual Sagadahoc County Fair at Topsham, Maine.

Cary's annotated transcription of this letter appears in his *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.*

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. *Key to* Correspondents.

Charlie: Charles Ashburton Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

Liddy: Elizabeth Gilman, Alice Gilman's daughter. Key to Correspondents.

Mother's magazine: Richard Cary identifies this magazine, published in New York from 1833 to 1888. "It was at this time edited by a minister and bore heavily upon the Sabbath and scripture. Although it printed periodical reports of the Maternal Association, it was 'not for mothers any more than for women in general,' and was widely read for its stories, poems, and special features."

mag a zine: Jewett seems to have carefully separated the syllables.

Cary says this new magazine was *Sunday Afternoon, "*published in Springfield, Massachusetts, and edited in its first year by Washington Gladden." Her first contribution appeared in January 1878, "A Late Supper." The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. Richard Cary's transcription is in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Ellis*

[*On stationery with the SOJ initials superimposed over each other.*]

South Berwick

10 October

[*1877 - 1885*]*

Dear Mary Ellis

I hope you have not forgotten your promise to spend a Sunday with me, and I should like dearly to have you come this very next Friday afternoon. I have

[*Page 2*]

just written Abby,* and I hope nothing will prevent my seeing you both. I have told her that I hope you can come in the early afternoon train for then I can go to meet you. Mary* sends

[*Page 3*]

you her love. And she and my mother and I are all looking forward to "the company" with great pleasure.

Yours always affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1877 - 1885: The tone of this letter suggests that the recipient is fairly young, though this is by no means certain. Jewett's correspondence with the Claflin family seems to begin in 1877, when Mary Claflin's step-granddaughter, Mary, was about 13. It seems unlikely that this letter was composed after Mary was 21, but as there is no yet discovered record of her marriage, it is possible that this letter is from a later year.

Despite this uncertainty, I have decided to place the letter in 1877.

Mary Ellis: A daughter of Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Abby: The identity of Abby is unknown. Perhaps this is a nickname for Mary Ellis's sister, Annie Claflin Ellis.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J, Ac 950.

Eliza Seeger to Sarah Orne Jewett

Northampton. Oct. 10th

[*1877*]*

My dear young Friend —

After you left us, a few weeks since, we received a very nice letter from you, & it was particularly gratifying to find that you had enjoyed our beautiful country, & our pleasant little home so much. Yesterday came another charming note from you, accompanied by the nice rolls of "Birch-bark" for which I am greatly indebted, how shall I return your kindness? if the "Maiden Hair roots" do not live, you must let me know, & if there is any thing that I can get for you here, or at the top of ["Mt — Tom" *?*]* how glad I shall be to send it, for your Fernery. Augusta* as

[*Page 2*]

well as myself really feel under great obligations to you & your family, for your kindness to Hattie & wish we might return it in some measure if it is possible{.} Perhaps your parents, or sisters might like to look upon our lovely & peaceful valley (Sometimes called "Sleepy Hollow")* if so we should [rejoyce *so it appears*] to show off our beautiful drive, & walks. Northampton is looking [glorious *corrected*] in its Autumn grandeur, such lovely tints of gold & purple old Mt— Tom* has put on lately, I wish you could see it as it has been the last few days. I sit at the parlor window, & look — off my work every few minutes, to see sunshine & the shadows pass across the mountain but I must stop to tell you I am doing some very [fascinating *?*] work, upon the brown [chair cush — *?*]*

[*Page 3*]

the leaves that are woven in the cloth, I work over with the brightest worsteds I can find, & each square that is woven round each leaf, I [surround *?*] with [narrow] black [velvet *?*], this makes a handsome chair cover for seat & back — I think this is [next to painting *?*], for we must have some artistic taste to arrange the colors to [harmonize *?*]{.} The "Birch Bark" is very [nice *?*], I think I shall paint some colored leaves on some little fancy things for our fair — I hope you did not take a great deal of trouble to get it for me, if so, I shall not dare to ask for more — when you come across any, you may save ~~it~~ it for me if you like. I was at the [Brewers *?*] the other [eve *or* even *?*] & Hannah* read me your note, & seemed delighted. I think [Miss K — *?*] peculiarities will be much

[*Page 4*]

more effective than ever, with the addition of the "new Orgin".* But I must stop now, for I think you will have enough from me to last awhile. I shall always be glad to hear from you & yours. I hope to see you another summer. Hattie writes that she is very well now. I only hope she may continue so — with much love from A— & from myself.

Believe me yours affly

Eliza Seeger

Notes

1877: While this date is arbitrarily chosen, it should not be very far from correct. This would be the last autumn in which both of Jewett's parents were living, so this letter must have been composed in 1877 or earlier.

Mt— Tom: Mt. Tom is about 10 miles south of Northampton, MA.

Augusta: Augusta and Hattie are members of Eliza Seeger's family. Augusta (1813-1885) was her sister, Hattie (d. 1921) was her niece. Key to Correspondents and Find a Grave.

Sleepy Hollow: Possibly an allusion to "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," a short story by American author, Washington Irving (1783-1859).

chair cush: This transcription is uncertain, but it seems clear later that Seeger is working on some sort of chair cover.

Hannah: This transcription is uncertain. Jewett was acquainted with Eliza Hannah Brewer (1829-1904), a sister of her correspondent, George Ichabod Goodwin. It seems unlikely, but not impossible, that this is the right person. Key to Correspondents.

Miss K ... orgin: This transcription is uncertain; perhaps what looks like K is really an H, and she refers again to Hannah. It appears that a church somewhere may have a new organ, though this also is not certain.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 045.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

11 Oct 1877

Dear Dawes-y,

She "thought to break a country heart For pastimes 'ere she went to town"!* —— I suppose I ought to congratulate you on going to Washington, but to tell the truth I am grieved that you are not to be in this region this winter. I hoped I should see you in Boston and that I should see you here. But joy go with you! and you can enlighten the mind of your provincial friend — cant you? and won't you? I am not sure, but I don't believe I should like to be in society. I am getting to have

[*Page 2*]

a very old-maidenly liking for being quiet — I suppose my writing makes me dislike a 'racket' more and more, — and yet no girl likes to see new people or enjoy her old friends more [or *?*] better than I. I suppose it [behoves *so spelled*] me to acknowledge your 'bit of a complimment' as the Irish say — before I mention anything else — I am very much obliged and if I did make it up myself dear Dawes-y, I never should be fool enough to tell yez! I should have thrashed you if I had been there, for that! I should have [shaken *corrected*] you well and made a few remarks to you that would not have been soon forgotten — None of your jokes at poor young authoresses

[*Page 3*]

if you please — But it was truly a sweet speech and I felt proud, and am [grateful *corrected*] to you for passing it on — It seems very foolish to say my stories are like Hawthorne's* and I wonder why people do? They don't seem a bit alike to me — I wish I were with you and we could have a talk — there is so much I wish I could say about this very matter of praise. It is all very pleasant — but is such a different pleasure from what I supposed it would be when I used to build castles in Spain a great while ago — It is a great puzzle to me to know myself — and other people

[*Page 4*]

aren't half so much a puzzle somehow — But I don't believe in thinking much about myself. I believe I take life more and more simply — at least I try to — for I am sure it is the better way —

I must confess to you that I have been feeling rather dull and blue lately — for I do not grow strong as I very much wish I could. My lame shoulder and chest hinder me some days from even writing a letter and I hoped to be hard at work by this time. I shall soon come to the conclusion that I had better not write any more just now — and try to give it up good naturedly.

[*Page 5*]

2

[But *corrected]* I have made ever so many plans and I am so interested in writing! I have been doing a little at a story during the last few days — it is rather out of my line — and I am very much interested to see how it is coming out — I wish I could work five hours a day right straight along, which is a senseless wish enough, because I should only be happy as long as I held out and then I should go down in sight of land as I did last winter —-

See here, dear girl — you think me a great deal gooder and better than I am and I dont feel comfortable and happy! I feel as if I were 'taking you in'

[*Page 6*]

and I hate every kind of deceit. Wouldn't it be nice if one never said more than one meant — if we could in every way be perfectly true? I suppose it is a thing one must try for always in this world and never reach — I'll tell you what I ask for myself every morning and night when I say my prayers = that I may pray and fight to become a brave good woman — that I may be a Christian through and through, and that I may be tireless in trying to do right — ~~and~~ I wonder why we dont try harder and care more about being good. — we 'go into' almost everything so much

[*Page 7*]

more heartily — it seems to me sometimes — and yet isn't it a comfort that the growth isn't all in our own hands, that there is a spiritual growth outside our own consciousness, that God takes care of — But don't you 'forget' hour after hour and day after day, and doesn't it seem as if there were more winter than summer?

There is something in Fenelon* that is always a great consolation to me when I think about my faults and troubles and carelessness — that when we walk in the dark the roughness of the country does not trouble us — but the higher the sun goes up in the sky the more [plainly *corrected*] we see — and the

[*Page 8*]

more we see Gods brightness, the worse we seem to ourselves — I get so ashamed of myself here at home — and isn't it harder to be good at home than anywhere else — and did you ever think that while we get most of our discipline from our own families, there is

compensation because we really love them better than we do anybody else?

— I was thinking about Sunday school awhile ago, and I [wondered *corrected*] if you took a class in Washington? I wish you could have a class of grown-up girls as I have. It would help you and it would help them — as a younger class cannot — I think it is very seldom

[*Page 9*]

3

one sees a girl so well fitted to help other girls, as you are. You [know *corrected*] so well society-life and you carry under all this so strong a consciousness of better things — I think so often of that line "some earnest word amid the idle talk"* —— and do let us try to remember it — I have often been sorry that I was afraid to speak gravely — but never sorry when I have spoken. All the same, I dont believe in forcing such things upon one's friends — there is always an instinct which teaches one — do not you find it so. And after all God's object in putting us into this world is to let us know him and have his goodness and wisdom and happiness — We

[*Page 10*]

are put here for love's sake, and God helps us all he can — but we must take his help in freedom. He does not force us — Now everything that makes people remember this real object of life must be a good thing — And when we are with people who are living for anything and everything else, and we know it and can remind them and help them — for God's sake let us try! — And let us pray oftener at any rate, because we are always forgetting what a power that is —

It made me very glad, what you said about Miss Barnard —* and I wish you would give my love to her — Isn't it wonderful how one's life reaches out? — beyond one's own

[*Page 11*]

4

knowledge — and how it frightens one sometimes. I think of it so much when I think about my book and my stories and how many people have read them —

— Well — I must say good-bye — I dont know when I have written so long a letter. I must tell you that I was in Boston for a day or two lately but I didn't see Ella* — and before that I had made a little visit down at Brunswick and had a lovely time with my young cousin Charley* — dear little fellow (or big fellow!) He has grown so this summer and he is trying very hard to be a good man.

[*Page 12*]

And I know you will be interested when I tell you that in Boston I bought myself a lovable saddle-horse — a chestnut thoroughbred that goes like the wind, and is so far satisfactory [*deletion above the line]* in every way. I call her Sheila for the Princess of Thule* — is not that a good name? I have no end to tell you about my dear Miss Preston whom I like and love more and more — but I have no time, and my arm really gave out some pages [back *corrected*]! Mary* sends a heap of love to you and wishes she ever could see you — Do you know how the Alice Walworth [*deletion*] ^match*^ comes on? Mary has been out at Mrs. Claflins* & Mrs. Ellis's & has had a lovely time.* She and Mrs. Ellis are great friends you know. Good bye from your fond and true [*unrecognized word*] S.O.J.

Notes

went to town: These lines are from the first stanza of Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Lady Clara Vere de Vere." See The Complete Works of Alfred Tennyson (1887), p. 26.

Hawthorne's: Wikipedia says: "Nathaniel Hawthorne ... (July 4, 1804 - May 19, 1864) was an American novelist, Dark Romantic, and short story writer."

Fenelon: Wikipedia says: "François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon ..., more commonly known as François Fénelon (6 August 1651 - 7 January 1715), was a French Roman Catholic archbishop, theologian, poet and writer." The passage to which Jewett refers may be from Letter VII, "Not to be troubled about unintentional omissions in confession" of March 21, 1690, in *Spiritual Letters* (1877), pp. 28-30.

"some earnest word amid the idle talk": This line is from Coventry Patmore (1823-1896), "Parting." The poem appeared in a number of 19th-century verse anthologies and was widely reprinted in various publications.

PARTING.
If thou dost bid thy friend farewell,
But for one night though that farewell may be,
Press thou his hand in thine.
How canst thou tell how far from thee
Fate or caprice may lead his steps ere that to-morrow comes?
Men have been known to lightly turn the corner of a street,
And days have grown to months, and months to lagging years,
Ere they have looked in loving eyes again.

Parting, at best, is underlaid
With tears and pain.
Therefore, lest sudden death should come between.
Or time, or distance, clasp with pressure firm
The hand of him who goeth forth;
Unseen, Fate goeth too.
Yes, find thou always time to say some earnest word
Between the idle talk,
Lest with thee henceforth,
Night and day, regret should walk.

Miss Barnard: Whether this is the Mrs. Barnard mentioned in other letters is not clear. In either case, her identity remains unknown.

Though this has not been confirmed, a strong candidate for "Mrs. Barnard" is Helen M. Barnard, like Dawes, active in women's suffrage. Helen Barnard worked as a journalist for the New York *Herald*, and served the U. S. government in various capacities. The *Washington Times* of 22 July 1914 (p. 7) says that she was one of the first two female journalists allowed to attend and cover the United States Senate: "Later Mrs. Barnard, under [*President Ulysses S*.] Grant's Administration, was sent to Liverpool as immigration commissioner. She visited England, Ireland, and Scotland. She returned in the steerage of an ocean liner and gave one of the most interesting and useful reports made on the subject of immigration." The Los Angeles Herald of 27 May 1888 (p. 6) says: "Helen M. Barnard was, and is, a regal woman, earnest, thoughtful and profound. Her forte was politics, in which she displayed extraordinary sagacity. She is now a staid married woman, resides in New York City, and is editing a special monthly journal." The description of a letter of introduction by James A. Garfield, then an Ohio congressman, presenting her to E. B. Washburne, then U. S. Minister at Paris, France, says: "Barnard was a government clerk, journalist, and an original member of the Universal Franchise Association, and an associate of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

Ella: See Ella Walworth Little in Key to Correspondents.

cousin Charley: Charles Ashburton Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

Thule: *A Princess of Thule* is a novel by the Scots author, William Black (1841-1898).

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Alice Walworth: See Ella Walworth Little in Key to Correspondents.

Claflins: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925. An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes," *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charles Ashburton Gilman

South Berwick

16 October 1877

Dear Charlie

I have been meaning to write to you ever since I came home but I have not found time. I went to Boston the second morning after I left Brunswick and bought the chestnut horse* which I like very much. Mary* says she likes it better than the others she saw, and so far, every thing seems right about it . I dont know that I ever saw a prettier creature — she's a thoroughbred and it was a great piece of good-luck that Mr. Chamberlain* happened to get her — I found out

[*Page 2*]

all about her, and who had owned her &c — She knows me already and follows me all [*deletion*] round after apples and sugar — I just wish you were here and would go out to see her for yourself. I think I shall enjoy her ever so much. —

I did have such a good time in Boston — I went to see Mr. Osgood,* and did some other errands and then went up to the Gordons, where I found that Ellen Mason* and several other friends of mine were in town from Newport and were all at Ellen's — You can guess that I whisked in and that I was persuaded to

[*Page 3*]

send a telegram home and to say over night — I stayed with Grace but I spent the evening with the other girls and we had a jolly time — I wish you had been with us! We went to see Heller the Magician and you [never *corrected*] saw such things as he did! I hurried home the next day at noon for I thought that Miss Preston* was coming but I found she was obliged to put it of until a week or so later, and that neither Mrs. Ellis nor Mrs. Furber* could come so soon as [

we *corrected*] had planned, and that even the dressmaker was belated! So we are alone

[*Page 4*]

this week after all, but I find a good deal to do —

Yesterday I went to York with John* to get the old chair I told you about, and I had a very nice time. We took our dinner and went over on cape Neddick exploring the pastures and in one place we drove over a stone wall! We had General in the little open buggy, and the wall had fallen down considerably just there! I should like to take you where we went, someday. It was not quite so wild as Orr's Island but it was wild enough — York is such

[*Page 5*]

a nice old place — I mean to go down again for the day, before cold weather — I hope you will 'happen along' soon —

It was too bad there was so much rainy weather in 'fair time' but I hope it didn't hinder all the pleasure and that you had no end of fun. I thought of you ever so much while I was in Boston. I long to see the Telegraph to hear about the premiums* — I did have such a nice time in Brunswick. I remember it every day, and especially Orr's Island — and you will not be surprised to hear that I have been reading

[*Page 6*]

"the Pearl"* over again to refresh my memory. By the way Charlie did you ever read a book called "Tom Brown at Rugby"?* It is one of the books I like best — and I think you would — Perhaps you wont like the first chapter very well, but you get Tom started at school, and see if you dont read all the rest! I dont know a jollier or a better book. I wish I could spend this afternoon at your house. Do give my love to all the family{.} I suppose Cousin Alice* got my letter but I want to say again what a good time I had and how kind you all were — Now write to me as soon as you can and remember you are coming to see us.

yours lovingly Sarah.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

I just had a letter from Mrs. Claflin asking me to make her a visit with Miss Phelps* the authoress. Wouldn't it be nice? but I cant very well accept, and my friends want me again to come down to Newport — which would also be very great fun if I could leave home.

I send these patterns of a dress I got to your mother <u>not</u> to you!

Notes

chestnut horse: Jewett further describes this horse in the final paragraph of her letter to Anna Dawes of 11 October 1877.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Chamberlain: Mellen Chamberlain. Key to Correspondents.

An earlier transcription by Richard Cary, appeared in "Jewett's Cousins Charles and Charlie." *Colby Library Quarterly* 5 (1959): 48-58. It was reprinted in Cary's *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* In his notes, Cary says, "That Jewett went to Boston to purchase her horse from Mr. Chamberlain suggests the possibility that the seller was her friend and early literary adviser, Judge Mellen Chamberlain of Boston."

Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Gordons ... Ellen Mason: Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden and Ellen Mason. Key to Correspondents.

Heller the Magician: Robert Heller (1826 -1878), a German immigrant, was a popular touring magician. Wikipedia.

Preston: Harriet Waters Preston. Key to Correspondents.

*Ellis ... Furbe*r: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis and Cynthia Elvira Irwin Furber. Key to Correspondents.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

premiums: Prizes offered at a county fair for contests in categories of produce, baking, livestock, etc. Cary notes:

> In point of fact the opening day of the Sagadahoc County Fair at Topsham was postponed on account of inclement weather, and attendance on the following morning was disappointingly slim. Gilman took high pride in excelling at local fairs. Miss Jewett's eagerness to read about "the premiums" ... was to be thoroughly rewarded. At the annual Sagadahoc County Fair, held the week previous, Charles Jervis exhibited in most of the major classes, winning two first prizes in the cow and heifer contests, a first and second prize for full-blooded sheep, and a second prize in poultry for his Plymouth Rock (Brunswick Telegraph, October 19, 1877).

"the Pearl": *The Pearl of Orr's Island* (1862), by American author, Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896). Wikipedia.

"Tom Brown at Rugby": Original title, *Tom Brown's Schooldays* (1857), by British author, Thomas Hughes (1822-1896). Wikipedia.

Alice: Alice Dunlap Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

Claflin ... Phelps: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Munger Fragment

[*4 November 1877*]

Admonition: “The great purpose of our lives is to know more of God." Sarah’s horse is named Sheila for the Princess of Thule; she is black chestnut with a white star in her forehead “and goes like the wind.”

Note

This selection is from a letter addressed to Lily Munger in Farmington, ME. Presumably only the parts within quotation marks are Jewett's words. The transcription appears in the Trafton Collection of Sarah Orne Jewett materials, 1856-1990 in the Maine Women Writers Collection. The original is held in the Barrett Collection at the University of Virginia. Terry Heller, Coe College.

Washington Gladden to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*7 November 1877*]*

The Late Supper is early enough. I have [*unrecognized word*], but I want some more. Send the little story.

Washington Gladden

Springfield, Nov. 7.

Notes

1877: This postcard was addressed to Jewett in South Berwick. ME, and canceled in Springfield, MA on 7 November. Though no year is given, the note clearly refers to Jewett's story, "A Late Supper," which appeared in *Sunday Afternoon* (1:55-64), January 1878, and was collected in *Old Friends and New*, 1879.

It appears that Jewett has another story in hand and has mentioned it to him. Probably this is "Beyond the Toll-Gate," which appeared in *Sunday Afternoon* in March 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Gladden, Washington, 1836-1918. 2 letters; 1897 & [n.d.]. (82).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

South Berwick

4 Dec 1877

Is not this a beautiful day and I wonder if you were as disheartened by the little snow-storm as I was! I am always so sorry to see the snow, and it shuts one in so in the country. I don’t like to keep to the roads always when I go for a walk — I have thought ever so many times about writing a sketch and calling it Between the Roads — People usually know nothing of the land that lies between the long country roads, except of course the people who own it, and I know such pretty places

[*Page 2*]

where there are deserted farms with traces of the house and garden perhaps, and one can find new brooks, and little hills and hollows. There is a favorite track of mine that I haven’t followed this fall. I waited till the swamps froze, and then other things prevented.

Did you have a good time Thanksgiving Day? It was certainly not a pleasant day out of doors. Grandfather* stayed until the morning and then I drove him over to the station, and left him in a very chipper frame of mind. I wonder if I shall live to be eighty-nine and be as young then as he is! I was very much tangled up in my theology

[*Page 3*]

the other day after I read that Methusaleh* wasn’t really so very old after all{,} that the years in those days were only a month or so long! Did you know it{?} I never did before, and do you believe it!

I have been reading Avis and it interested me very much as Miss Phelps's books* always do, but I think it wont do the good she fancied and I am afraid it will do harm. Avis is far too exceptional a character — one can hardly say that Phelps's characters are untrue, but they seem to me like what I know of Turner’s pictures,* beyond more peoples comprehension

or without their observation at any rate. I think it is better

[*Page 4*]

not to take the perfect type of a class when one wishes to write such a book as that! So few girls can possibly be so devoted, as Avis was to her art.

Notes

Grandfather: Jewett's grandfather, Dr. William Perry (20 December 1788 - 11 January 1887). Key to Correspondents.

Methusaleh: Methuselah (usually so spelled) is named in the Bible, Genesis 5:21-27, as the longest lived person in Hebrew history, dying at the age of 969. Biblical scholars continue to disagree upon the meaning of this number, whether it is to be read literally or in some other way. Jewett later published a story, "The New Methuselah" in *Scribner's Magazine* (7:514-524), April 1890.

Avis ... Phelps books: Wikipedia says: "Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward (1844 -1911) was an early feminist American author and intellectual who challenged traditional Christian beliefs of the afterlife, challenged women's traditional roles in marriage and family, and advocated clothing reform for women.... In 1877 she published a novel, *The Story of Avis*, that was ahead of its time. The work focuses on many of the early feminist issues of her era. In it she portrayed a woman's struggle to balance her married life and associated domestic responsibilities with her passion to become a painter."

Turner's pictures: Wikipedia says: "Joseph Mallord William Turner, RA (baptised 14 May 1775 - 19 December 1851) was an English Romanticist landscape painter. Turner was considered a controversial figure in his day, but is now regarded as the artist who elevated landscape painting to an eminence rivaling history painting."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Fields, MS AM 1743 (255). Though it lacks greeting or signature, it seems to be complete. Transcribed and annotated with the assistance of Tanner Brossart, Coe College.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

5 Dec 1877

Dear Anna

I have just finished a long stretch of copying and it is not quite time for dinner, so I am going to begin a letter to you — I have been wishing of late to answer your last letter [but *corrected]* my time has been very much broken of late — First my cousin Minnie* died and I went to her funeral and then the next day I went to Boston to stay for two or three days with Grace Gordon* whose father had just died. I caught cold while I was away and came home sick — and as soon as I felt

[*Page 2*]

well enough I had to hurry into some writing —

As usual I wish I could talk to you instead of writing — I want to see you very much — and I have been hoping that we might meet in Boston as Ella* said you would probably be there later — But I doubt if I go before January now, unless something turns up — I saw Mrs. Goddard* and she praised you most heartily for which I liked her the more — I never have seen her for a very long time until lately and I do like her so much — Indeed

[*Page 3*]

I have grown very fond of her — I hoped to see Miss Preston* whom ^she^ expected two days while I was there, but the rain [prevented *corrected*] her coming in from Danvers.

— It is after dinner now, and in the meantime I have had a letter from Miss Preston in which she says she may possibly come for two or three days next week. Would it not be very pleasant for me? but I am so sorry we were disappointed about her coming earlier in the season — Everything conspired against it then and now it is so dreary — But I want to see her awfully —

Dear Dawes-y I have viewed Mr. May — and I don't think

[*Page 4*]

him so [black *corrected*] as he's been painted to me in past times. And [neither *corrected*] do the family it seems to me. He is very much of a gentleman and the wonder is to me that he should be satisfied with Alice — if there is any wonder at all in the case! I could not see anything undesirable about him in the evening I was with him at Mrs. Walworth's — but Wallace is my favorite of the sons-in-law —* Give us your views.

Do you know that I have under consideration a plan which would involve my holding considerable sweet counsel with you? Mrs. Claflin* has asked me for the third time to visit her — bless her kind

[*Page 5*]

heart! and this time it is [in *corrected*] Washington late in January — I said at once that I shouldn't go, but the family persuaded me not to send an out and out refusal — the truth is I like so dearly to be quietly at home and at work at my desk and to take my walks abroad to Boston by and by — and then it would be such a piece of work to get ready and the end would be that my whole winter would be broken up, for I should have to stop to make at least three decent little visits in Philadelphia. I suppose I should enjoy Washington, and there are quite a number of people there this winter whom I know —

[*Page 6*]

and it would be great fun to have you there — Would^n't^ we have a neat little lark once in a while? — I own that the great drawback is bothering my head about more new clothes — I'm very respectable for staying at home — I have a gallant new black silk and velvet gown for the house — and ~~a~~an ^brown^ out-door dress that seems to 'fill the eye' of all my friends, but shouldn't I be unhappy without a light silk? and though I don't like big parties I should be Mrs. Claflin's guest and if she wanted me to go to one very much I should you know, dear Dawesy — friend

[*Page 7*]

of my heart. To tell the truth I dont know whether I want to go or not — I suppose it would be a “great advantage” to me don't you!!* ———————-

I have done a great deal of writing since I wrote you and I [begin *corrected*] to feel a little tired. There is going to be a story of mine in the first number of Sunday Afternoon* the new magazine — which I hope you let your eyes rest upon.

I have a great deal to say to you but I must wait until next time — I have felt my cousin's death very much — I think you must have heard me speak

[*Page 8*]

of her = Minnie Fiske (not Ella's cousin!){.} Her death seemed very sudden to me; we were about the same age and were together a great deal when we were children — Good-bye, dear and do write to me soon. I have thought much of you though I have not said so in a letter —

Yours sincerely and fondly

Sarah O. Jewett

I've been reading Miss Phelps's Avis,* but withhold my views at present! —

Notes

Fiske: Minnie Fiske of Exeter, NH, died unexpectedly in December of 1877. Jewett refers to her as a cousin, but Richard Cary says they were not literally related. She may be Ruth Anna Fisk (1865-1877), the daughter of Ezra Fisk (1811-1887) and Isabella Fisk (1820-1886). She is buried near Exeter, in East Kingston, NH.

Grace Gordon: Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden. Her father died in November. Key to Correspondents.

Ella: See Ella Walworth Little in Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Goddard: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Preston Waters, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874).

Miss Preston: Harriet Waters Preston, translator, critic and novelist, who roused Miss Jewett's interest in the poetry of Matthew Arnold. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. May... Alice... Mrs. Walworth's ... Wallace: All of these people are identified in the entry on Ella Walworth Little in Key to Correspondents.

Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin in Key to Correspondents.

you!!: Jewett has drawn a long wavy line after this word.

Afternoon: "A Late Supper," *Sunday Afternoon*, I (January 1878), 55-64.

Phelps's: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward's *The Story of Avis* (1877), about a woman artist. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes," *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

—·—

THE RIVERSIDE PRESS,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

[*End letterhead*]

[*Date appears to the right of "Cambridge, Mass."*]

Dec. 7, 1877.

Dear Miss Jewett:

I find I've but one practicable photograph left, and that belongs to Mrs Howells; but the next time I go to Boston I'll get two and send them.

I'm glad to know that you'll soon show me a story. I don't ^know^ why I don't think these lines* will quite do.

Yours sincerely

W. D. Howells.

Notes

these lines: It would appear that Howells has rejected a Jewett poem. Her next story to appear in *Atlantic* was "A Lost Lover" (March 1878).

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105).

Helen Augusta Williams Gilman to Theodore Herman Jewett

Portland, Dec 12. 77

My dear Dr.

Dr. G. rec'd your kind letter duly, and intended to answer it — this m'g ere he left for Augusta where a meeting at the Asylum* is to ^be^ held tomorrow, but he was too busy, and requested me to be sure and do it for him. He is delighted & relieved to know that you will attend the meeting here on Tuesday night, and especially glad that ^you^ can come on Monday and you must not fail to come directly to our house — Also that your message to Dr. Weeks* had been passed to him as you desired — I am just home again after an

[*Page 2*]

absence of nine weeks in Cambridge — I brought Harry* down with me, and the change seems already to be doing him good, and before long I trust he will be a stronger & healthier boy than before his [*unrecognized word*]. Ever since I heard of Mr. Burleigh's* sad death I have been meaning to ^write to^ Sarah* or some of you, for I have felt the deepest sympathy for poor Mrs B., and indeed for you all, as I know the place he held [among *corrected*] your townspeople and in your family. I do think his poor wife is to be pitied almost more than anyone I know, for the manner of his death was so shocking & [dramatic *?*] ending. The whole community was

[*Page 3*]

appalled, and [have *?*] not yet recovered from the stunning blow — Sometime when it is all right I should be glad for Mrs B. to know that Dr. G. & I feel the greatest sympathy for her — Through you I shall be glad to learn of the last days of [Mr. J. N. Jordan *?*] & Minnie Fiske,* as I was in Cam. when they [died *corrected*], and know nothing beyond the fact — Please give my warmest love to all your family, and if any of them can come with you we shall be delighted to see them — If I was in my best estate I should ask for Sarah to come with you, in compensation for her not stopping here on her return from Brunswick in Oct.

[*Page 4*]

but I really feel it would be more to her to come at some other time — I do not mean this as derogatory to the other members of [your *corrected*] family I assure you, only for ^an^ [authoress *?*] [*possibly an unrecognized word* only *?*] a body, like my humble self, wishes to be moderately [bright. & *?*] my heart* is all right, and I can bestow as warm a welcome as I ever did, on any of the dear ones you may like to bring with you — Excuse this long letter, but talking with Harry at the same time has not been conducive to condensed sentences or a properly written letter — indeed I am quite ashamed of it — with warmest [*unrecognized word*] love for you all, am yrs truly,

Helen A. Gilman

Notes

Asylum: The Maine State Insane Asylum in Augusta, ME, is now known as Riverview Psychiatric Center.

Dr. Weeks: Stephen Holmes Weeks (1836-1909) was a surgeon at the Maine General Hospital, and a professor of surgery and

anatomy at Bowdoin, Medical School of Maine, and Brunswick-Portland.

Harry: Probably, this is Gilman's grandson, Henry A. Nichols (1869-1935).

Mr. Burleigh's: John Holmes Burleigh (1822 - 5 December 1877) was a Member of Congress from 1873 to 1877. In Berwick the Burleighs were a well known family who ran a woolen mill. According to the Old Berwick Historical Society, Burleigh died in a carriage accident. His wife was Matilda Buffum Burleigh (1823-1911).

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. J. N. Jordan & Minnie Fiske: The transcription of Mr. Jordan is uncertain, and he remains unidentified.

> Minnie Fiske of Exeter, NH, died unexpectedly in December of 1877. In her letter to Anna Loring of 5 December 1877, Jewett refers to her as a cousin, though Richard Cary says they were not literally related. She may be Ruth Anna Fisk (1865-1877), the daughter of Ezra Fisk (1811-1887) and Isabella Fisk (1820-1886). She is buried near Exeter, in East Kingston, NH.

heart: The transcription of this passage is uncertain, as is Gilman's intent. Perhaps she means to say that if Sarah Orne Jewett, now author of a well-received novel, is to visit, she would like her home to be better prepared than she can currently manage.

This manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Correspondence: individual recipients; Other correspondence; Other correspondence, unidentified, undated; includes fragments, Box 13, Folder 62.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charles Ashburton Gilman

South Berwick, Maine

23 Dec. 1877

Dear Charlie:

I send you this little letter-case hoping you will find it as useful ^as^ I have found one just like it — Mine is nearly worn-out now — I was very glad to get your letter and wish I could send you a long one in reply but I must put off writing ~~of~~ anything but a note, for I have several notes to write

[*Page 2*]

today and not much time.

I hope you will have a "Merrie Christmas" and a most happy one too, dear Charlie — and that you will try to make it a pleasant day for somebody else. I am very sure you will do this, for I think you do not forget other people. I should like to see you and to hear all about what you are doing, your lessons and your friends and what is going on. I was very glad to get your letter — and I wish

[*Page 3*]

you could write oftener, but I know it is hard to find time for letters.

We were very sorry to hear of David's* accident and hope he is gaining very fast — Mother and Carrie* have been in Exeter this week but returned yesterday — Thursday was Grandpa's* eighty-ninth birthday —

Please give my love and good wishes to all the family and with a great deal of love for yourself I am always yours sincerely and affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

David's: An earlier transcription appeared in Richard Cary, *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*.

Cary identified David Dunlap Gilman (1854-1914), Charles's elder brother, who was a paymaster at the Cabot mill.

Mother and Carrie: Caroline Frances Perry (Jewett) and Caroline Augusta Jewett (Eastman). Key to Correspondents.

Grandpa's: Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. New transcription and notes.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett

5 Walnut St. Boston.

December 24 — 1877.

Dear Sarah —

I had hoped to be able to write to you before this — but I find it very hard to write, when I have so very little time. I know you will understand. I want to thank you for that lovely poem — "He who died at Azim."* It is so beautiful — & so true — Mamma, all of us, were so pleased with it —

I send you just a little trifle

[*Page 2*]

[Small item *?*] — with many best wishes for this Christmas & a happy New Year —

With love & best wishes for all

Grace —

Notes

Azim: "He Who Died at Azim," is an Arabic poem, translated by Sir Edwin Arnold (1832-1904). Its subject is life after death, as this passage illustrates:

> Farewell, friends! But not farewell;
> Where I am, ye too shall dwell.
> I am gone before your face,
> A moment's worth, a little space.
> When ye come where I have stepped,
> Ye will wonder why ye wept;
> Ye will know, by true love taught,
> That here is all, and there is naught.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm.

Georgina Halliburton to Sarah Orne Jewett

130 Hicks*

December 27 [*1877*]*

My dear Sarah

I am sure I shall enjoy [*unrecognized name*] greatly since you [like it *?*] and your friend [*unrecognized word*] it and I thank you ever so much for sending it to me! With your dear

[*Page 2*]

Christmas wishes wh. I am sure helped to make my Christmas a more bright & blessed one. It didn't seem much like Christmas with no snow and a day like spring. Only think of it the [*two unrecognized words*] is [out *?*] in bloom.

[*Page 3*]

I hope you will go to Washington. I think you would enjoy it so much, and it would be such a pleasant season. The first winter of the Hayes Administration. I think it would be so nice for you.

Poor Grace writes in very low spirits. She feels her father's death deeply{.} I think [*unrecognized word*] that George* will conduct things well. do [*so written*] you believe

[*Page 4*]

he can. I am surprised Mr. G did not cut him off. I supposed he would. And yet there is a great deal of nobility I think in his not doing so.

I hope I shall get home soon. Somehow when I am here I [do not *? two unrecognized words*] to propose a return fearing the family may not like it, but I am often real homesick. And this is one of my days.

Good bye my dear{.} I thought of you when I [just *?*] saw

[*Down from the left margin at the top if page 1*]

the Christmas dawn & wished you the best of wishes.

Yours

Georgina

Tell Mary* I have just finished "Agatha's Husband{"}* and liked it very much.

Notes

130 Hicks: This is a Brooklyn Heights, NY address. Halliburton's home was Portsmouth, NH.

1877: This date is probable because Christmas of this year fell during the first winter of the Hayes administration. See notes below.

Washington ... Hayes Administration: Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893) was the nineteenth President of the United States (1877-1881). Jewett visited in Washington DC during February 1878.

Grace ... George: Grace Gordon (Walden) and her brother, George Gordon. Key to Correspondents. Their father, George W. Gordon, died on 19 November 1877.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

"Agatha's Husband": Dinah Maria Mulock Craik (1826-1887), a British novelist and poet, published her novel, *Agatha's Husband*, in 1853.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm.

William Hayes Ward to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

The Independent.

Editorial Rooms, 251 Broadway

Post-Office Box 2787. New York,

[*End letterhead*] Dec 28 1877.

Miss Sarah O Jewett,

My dear Miss J.

I like those Negro pictures* much — But I do not believe there is any thing Aryan about those ~~fox~~ ^rabbit^ stories. They are pure Negro, I am very sure. Such folk lore is not characteristically Aryan,* as even Japan is full of it.

I will publish [them *?*]

Respectfully

Wm Hayes Ward

Ed.

Notes

Negro pictures: In *The Independent* for April 11, 1878, pp. 27-8, appeared a set of 3 "Negro Stories" by Anna Porter, featuring Bear, Fox and Rabbit. These may be the "pictures" to which Ward refers. They were similar to the folktales adapted by American author Joel Chandler Harris (1846-1908) for his "Uncle Remus" stories, which began to appear in 1876.

It appears that Jewett has acted as an intermediary between Anna Porter and Ward, but this is far from certain. Porter has not been further identified, and Jewett's connection with her is not yet known. One may wonder whether Anna Porter is Lydia Ann Emerson Porter (1816-1898), a second cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson, was a New England educator and author who published under several names.

Aryan: Especially since Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany, the term Aryan has been suspect, its very use associated with belief in white supremacy. In the 1870s, among anthropologists and linguists, there was disagreement about whether there was such a thing as an Aryan race and how to define it if it did exist, and in popular thought, there was confusion about the term's meaning. The context of this letter suggests that Jewett has wondered if Porter's stories are "pure Negro," that is, collected folklore, or if they have been modified by white (Aryan) re-telling.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. bMS Am 1743 (229).